



SCORE RWANDA PROJECT



IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

Year 2025

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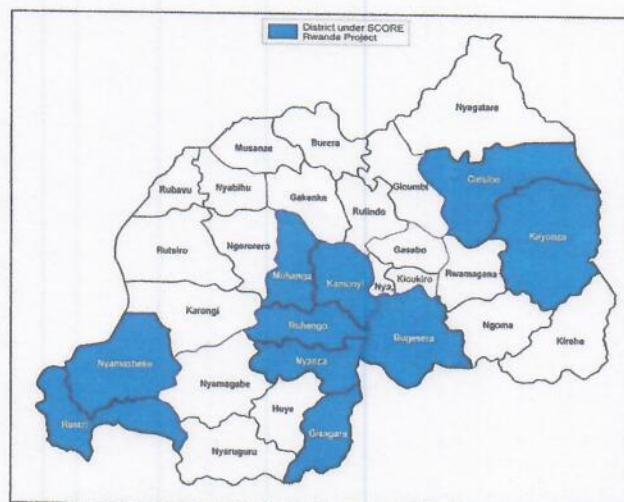
B2B: Business to Business	MINICOM: Ministry of Trade and Industry
EAFF: Eastern Africa Farmers Federation	MINAGRI: Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
FFS: Farmer Field School	NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
FI: Financial Institution	PHHS: Post Harvest Handling and Storage
GAFSP: Global Agriculture and Food Security Program	RAB: Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board
GAP: Good Agricultural Practices	RICA: Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority
Ha: Hectare	ToT: Training of Trainers
ICT: Information, Communication and Technology	TV: Television
IFAD: International Fund for Agriculture Development	USD: United States Dollar
M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation	WFO: World Farmers' Organization
MT: Metric Ton	

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

INGABO Syndicate is the Rwandan Farmers' Syndicate, legally recognized by the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Labor and Public Services since April 1, 2005. INGABO has 16,051 active members, of which 54.1% are women and 45.8% are men, with 20% youth representation. It is a founding member of the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) and a member of the World Farmers' Organization (WFO).

INGABO Syndicate is currently implementing the project entitled "Strengthening Smallholder Farmers' Resilience to Food and Climatic Crises for Improved Food Security and Livelihoods in Rwanda" (SCORE RWANDA) in 10 Districts of Rwanda namely Gatsibo, Kayonza, Bugesera, Kamonyi, Muhanga, Ruhango, Nyanza, Gisagara, Nyamasheke and Rusizi.



To ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the project, INGABO Syndicate established five project sub-offices and appointed five Field Officers, as follows:

Table 1: SCORE Rwanda Project Field Offices

No.	Office's location	Project intervention areas/ Districts
1	Kayonza	Gatsibo and Kayonza
2	Bugesera	Bugesera and Kamonyi
3	Ruhango	Muhanga and Ruhango
4	Nyanza	Gisagara and Nyanza
5	Nyamasheke	Nyamasheke and Rusizi

During 2025, the first year of implementation, the Project focused mainly on:

- (i) recruiting new staff;
- (ii) establishing field offices;
- (iii) procuring project equipment, including one vehicle, motorcycles for field staff, and office furniture;
- (iv) identifying and selecting farmer cooperatives to collaborate with the Project;

- (v) training Farmer Field School (FFS) facilitators and smallholder farmers, through their cooperatives, on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), with a particular emphasis on the Zai Pit technique;
- (vi) identifying and establishing cassava FFS plots with signposts;
- (vii) installing five screen houses for cassava seed multiplication; and
- (viii) coordinating key actors in the cassava value chain through Cassava Week 2025.

As the main achievements of the Project's first year, 10 dedicated staff members were appointed at the head office and sub-offices, and one vehicle and five motorcycles were procured and are currently in use for field operations. The Project is currently working with 85 cooperatives across 10 Districts. Through these cooperatives, the following activities were carried out: 90 FFS facilitators were trained, who in turn trained 15,422 farmers on GAP, particularly the Zai Pit technique. In addition, 170 cassava FFS plots and five (5) screen houses for cassava seed multiplication were established.

1.2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project aims to strengthen the resilience of cassava farming households and enhance food security and livelihoods through four components; and each component is subdivided into sub-components (activities) as follows:

Table 1: Project components and sub-components

No	Component/Sub-component
1. Increase of production and income of cassava farmers through the use of clean and improved seed, scale-up of Zai Pit technique, improved practices in production (GAP) & PHHS and market linkages by connecting producers and buyers	
1.1.	<i>Training of existing and new cassava seed entrepreneurs in GAP (Good Agricultural Practices, Standard regulation of seed multiplication)</i>
1.2.	<i>Installation of screen houses for cassava seeds multiplication</i>
1.3.	<i>Training of smallholder farmers on GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) especially Zai pit technique</i>
1.4.	<i>Distribution of certified cassava seeds</i>
1.5.	<i>Coordination of different actors in cassava value chain</i>
1.6.	<i>Training of smallholder farmers on cassava postharvest handling to improve quality and food safety</i>
1.7.	<i>Promotion of rotation and intercropping (bio-fortified beans and soybeans)</i>
2. Improve cassava producers' resilience to climate shocks through awareness-raising and capacity-building for climate change adaptation	
2.1.	<i>Technical meetings (between RAB, INGABO and other key stakeholders) to identify and package climate smart technologies per agro-ecologies</i>
2.2.	<i>Training of smallholder farmers on rainwater harvesting and erosion control techniques</i>

No	Component/Sub-component
2.3.	<i>Conducting awareness campaign through field visit, radio and television shows</i>
2.4.	<i>Planting agroforestry trees and fruits trees</i>
3. Strengthen the upstream and downstream links in the cassava value chain and offer new job opportunities to women and young people through better access to financing	
3.1.	<i>Training women and youth on business plan development, entrepreneurship, access to finance and financial management</i>
3.2.	<i>Business to Business meetings</i>
3.3.	<i>Providing technical assistance with women and youth to prepare 50 bankable projects in order to get loan</i>
3.4.	<i>Competitively award seed money to best climate resilient business plans</i>
3.5.	<i>Support existing women and youth entrepreneurs to upscale their businesses (assess their status and support accordingly)</i>
4. Guarantee a sustainable, high-quality service offering for cassava producers through Institutional strengthening of INGABO and member cooperatives in the areas of Project Management, Knowledge Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation	
4.1.	<i>Planning, monitoring, evaluation, (mid-term and end-line evaluation), coordination and learning of the project</i>
4.2.	<i>Strengthening INGABO governance through General Congress and building cooperatives management</i>
4.3.	<i>Project visibility and communication</i>
4.4.	<i>Conducting peer to peer exchange visits to beneficiaries of GAFSP projects supervised by IFAD</i>
4.5.	<i>Review and update some policies and procedures of INGABO Syndicate (Procedure manual, internal regulations etc.)</i>
4.6.	<i>Hiring new staff</i>
4.7.	<i>Purchasing and maintaining project equipment and materials</i>

Project Development Objective (PDO):

With a target of 20,500 direct farmer beneficiaries, the Project aims to:

“Improve food security, livelihoods, and resilience to climate and other shocks among cassava-farming households in an inclusive manner.”

Cooperatives working with the Project:

The Project is currently working with 85 Cooperatives across ten Districts as detailed below:

Table 2: Cooperatives working with the Project

District	Number of Cooperatives
Kamonyi	9

Muhanga	10
Ruhango	10
Nyanza	9
Gisagara	7
Bugesera	5
Gatsibo	10
Kayonza	10
Nyamasheke	8
Rusizi	7
Total	85

1.3. BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Table 3: SCORE Rwanda Project basic information

Country	Rwanda
Project	SCORE Rwanda
Project effective date	January 22 nd , 2025
Project completion date	March 31 st , 2029

Commitments and Disbursements

Table 4: SCORE Rwanda Project commitment, disbursement and spending

NAME	COMMITMENT (in USD) (A)	CUMULATIVE AMOUNT (in USD) DISBURSED AS OF PREVIOUS PERIOD(B)	CUMULATIVE AMOUNT (in USD) DISBURSED AS OF CURRENT PERIOD (C)	CUMULATIVE AMOUNT (in USD) SPENT BY THE PROJECT (D)	Percentage (%) D*100/C
GAFSP Portion	2,010,000	-	517,315	502,042.78	97.05
INGABO Syndicate Portion	28,000	-	3,028.78	3,028.78	100.00
AGRITERRA Portion	67,000	-	1,952.64	1,952.64	100.00
EAFF Portion	50,000	-	0	0	-
Total Project	2,155,000	-	522,296.42	507,024.2	97.08

CHAPTER 2. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

COMPONENT 1:

Increase of production and income of cassava farmers through the use of clean and improved cassava seed, the scale-up of Zai Pit technique, improved practices in production (GAP: Good Agricultural Practices) & PHHS (Post Harvest Handling and Storage), and market linkages by connecting producers and buyers

The objective of the component one is to take up activities that develop the capacities of and motivate smallholder farmers to adopt GAP in cassava production to increase productivity (yield per unit area) and good PHHS practices to improve the quality of dried chips (dried chips are processed into flour both at household and processing plants levels).

Activity 1.1: Training of existing and new cassava seed entrepreneurs in GAP, Standard regulation of seed multiplication

This sub-component aims at building the capacity of 55 existing and 30 new cassava seed entrepreneurs in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) of cassava seed production; and hiring and providing 5 field officers with required equipment.

Using the training manual developed by the consultant, 47 cassava seed entrepreneurs (32 men and 15 women), both new and existing, were trained in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and the regulatory standards for cassava seed multiplication.

Drawing on the experience of existing cassava seed entrepreneurs, the new entrepreneurs were advised to treat cassava seed multiplication as a business. They were encouraged to make effective use of both existing and newly established screen houses, work closely with the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) and the Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (RICA), and fully comply with all regulations related to cassava seed multiplication.

Activity 1.2: Installation of screen-houses for cassava seeds multiplication basing on INGABO experience in the past and provide pre-basic cassava cuttings

This aims at installing new cassava cooperative screenhouses and expanding technical support to produce pre-basic and basic seeds to solve the challenge of limited seed supply in the Country. As planned, all 5 screen-houses were already installed in Bugesera, Kayonza, Gisagara, Ruhango and Nyamasheke Districts.

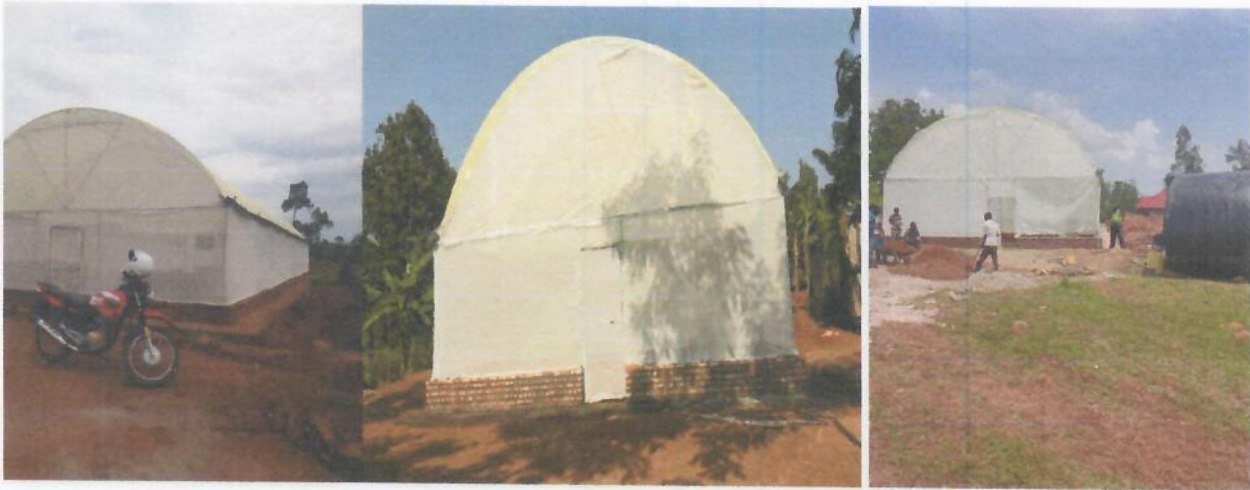


Figure 1: Kayonza-Bugesera-Ruhango-Gisagara and Nyamasheke screen-houses



In collaboration with the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), preparations are underway to operationalize the screen houses.

Activity 1.3: Training of smallholder farmers on GAP especially Zai Pit technique

This consists in the training of 6,000 existing and 14,500 new smallholder farmers in cassava GAP, particularly to scale-up the Zai Pit Technique, through 255 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and multimedia campaigns through 8 radio and 4 TV shows.

The SCORE Rwanda Project is currently working with 85 cooperatives, within which 90 cassava Farmer Field School (FFS) facilitators were trained. These facilitators,

in turn, trained 15,422 farmers in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), with a strong focus on the Zai pit technique, using training materials developed by the hired consultant.



Figure 2: Trained FFS Facilitators



Figure 3: Smallholder Farmers' Training Sessions

Table 5: Number of smallholder farmers trained on GAP/Zai Pit

District name	Male			Female			TOTAL (M + F)		GRAND TOTAL	Youth
	Cooperative members	No Cooperative members	Total	Cooperative members	No Cooperative members	Total	Male	Female		
Gatsibo	843	118	961	854	167	1021	961	1021	1982	163
Kayonza	372	250	622	322	217	539	622	539	1161	133
Bugesera	45	490	535	66	520	586	535	586	1121	127
Kamonyi	1536	380	1916	1099	383	1498	1916	1498	3414	400
Muhanga	591	155	746	748	220	968	746	968	1714	94
Ruhango	402	69	471	406	51	457	471	457	928	72
Nyanza	101	136	237	246	173	419	237	419	656	54
Gisagara	313	37	350	384	23	407	350	407	757	91
Nyamasheke	800	127	927	863	185	1048	927	1048	1975	211
Rusizi	709	62	771	185	758	943	771	943	1714	97
TOTAL	5712	1824	7536	5173	2697	7886	7536	7886	15422	1442

To scale up the Zai Pit technique across the project intervention areas, 170 cassava Farmer Field School (FFS) plots were established, at a ratio of two plots per cooperative. As a result, smallholder farmers are learning and adopting improved farming practices through these cassava FFS plots within their communities.



Figure 4: Farmers learning from the established FFS plots

Given the 15-month production cycle of cassava, no harvests had yet been recorded from plots established under the SCORE Rwanda project during the first year of implementation. However, following the training provided on the Zai pit technique, a number of farmers have already begun adopting this practice. To date, 70 farmers across 10 districts have applied the Zai pit technique on a total area of 14.135 hectares. The table below presents the distribution of adopters and cultivated areas by district.

Table 6: Number of farmers adopting the Zai Pit technique and the corresponding area per District

District	Number of farmers who adopted the technique	Male	Female	Cultivated area (in Ha)
Kayonza	4	2	2	6.5
Gatsibo	1	0	1	1.5
Nyamasheke	1	1	0	0.04
Rusizi	1	1	0	0.2
Ruhango	21	12	9	1.57
Muhanga	1	0	1	0.1
Gisagara	10	6	4	1.55
Nyanza	13	7	6	1.15
Kamonyi	15	12	3	1.3

Bugesera	3	3	0	0.225
Total	70	44	26	14.135

Activity 1.5: Coordination of different actors in cassava value chain

This aims at conducting one cassava week per year and two other multi-stakeholder meetings to create the enabling environment for developing the cassava value chain.

As an annual event initiated and organized by INGABO Syndicate; and officially supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, the Cassava Week 2025 took place in Gisagara District from 12 to 14 November 2025. The event was held under the theme “Empowering the Cassava Value Chain through Innovation, Partnership, and Climate Resilience.” It brought together about 200 participants, including farmers, policymakers, private sector representatives, researchers, processors, development partners, and cooperative leaders. Participants reviewed the performance of the cassava sector, identified key challenges, and discussed a shared way forward. The 2025 event focused on: (i) promoting innovation in cassava production and processing; (ii) strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships; (iii) building resilience to climate change; (iv) improving farmers’ access to markets; and (v) promoting inclusive value chain governance.

It really helped different actors in the cassava value chain come together to discuss how innovations can be adopted and scaled up, and how partnerships among stakeholders can strengthen the development of the cassava value chain.

In her address, the Governor of the Southern Province, Madam Alice Kayitesi, lauded the INGABO Syndicate and its partners for their remarkable efforts in advancing the agricultural sector. She urged farmers to enhance their professionalism, adopt modern and innovative farming practices, and promote environmentally sustainable agriculture.



Figure 5: Participants in the Cassava Week 2025

Cassava Week 2025 Resolutions

Over the three-day event, and following extensive thematic discussions, review of showcased activities, and key insights gathered during the launch of the improved cassava seed multiplication initiative at GISAGARA’s new screen house under SCORE Rwanda Project, the following resolutions were adopted:

Table 7: Cassava Week 2025 Resolutions

No.	Resolution	Responsible Parties
1	In collaboration with various institutions, farmers will increase efforts to double cassava production from 14.4 tons to 28 tons by the year 2029.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAB • MINAGRI • INGABO FARMERS SYNDICATE • LOCAL GOVERNMENT • FARMERS
2	In collaboration with relevant institutions, security will be strengthened in seed multiplication fields, and farmers will be encouraged to use seeds produced by certified seed multipliers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAB • RICA • IITA • MEDA
3	In collaboration with relevant institutions, more efforts will be put into raising awareness about weather forecasting and climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FARMERS • LOCAL GOVERNMENT • INGABO FARMERS SYNDICATE • METEO RWANDA • REMA
4	Create an online platform to improve the marketing of services and products within the cassava value chain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INGABO FARMERS SYNDICATE • IITA • IFAD • EU
5	Cooperatives are required to improve governance and management so that they can effectively meet the needs of their member farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCA • LOCAL GOVERNMENT • OTHER PARTNERS
6	Processors are required to focus on product quality and standards based on market requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASSAVA PROCESSORS • MINICOM • COOPERATIVES
7	Based on the importance of the ZAI PIT technique, all institutions are requested to collaborate in raising awareness so that it is adopted widely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCAL GOVERNMENT • INGABO FARMERS SYNDICATE
8	Given that cassava is one of the prioritized crops in Rwanda, it should be integrated into the FOBASI program in districts where it is widely grown.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCAL GOVERNMENT • MINAGRI
9	Regarding agricultural insurance, INGABO Syndicate will advocate for revising the calculation of capital requirements so that they align with current conditions, and for extending insurance coverage to include seeds in the field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MINAGRI • INSURANCE COMPANIES

No.	Resolution	Responsible Parties
10	Improve coordination between RAB and RICA and harmonize information related to cassava seed variety names.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAB • RICA
11	Establish district-level forums to discuss agricultural investment matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCAL GOVERNMENT • MINICOM • BRD

In order to expose consumers and other stakeholders to innovations in the cassava value chain, particularly in processing and value addition aimed at expanding cassava markets, INGABO Farmers' Syndicate with its member/working cooperatives in different agricultural exhibitions at the local/district and national levels.

Therefore, the INGABO Farmers' Syndicate participated in the 18th Agri-Show organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) and won the trophy as Best Exhibitor in Primary Production.



Figure 6: Trophy won by INGABO Syndicate

COMPONENT 3: Strengthen the upstream and downstream links in the cassava value chain and offer new job opportunities to women and young people through better access to financing

The Component 3 intends to empower 50 women and girls/youth farmers particularly in the areas of entrepreneurship and marketing, business management and access to finance to expand their capacity to create and take advantage of opportunities along agricultural value chains, and eventually improve their livelihoods.

Activity 3.2: Business to Business (B2B) meetings

With the aim of promoting women's access to finance, one Business-to-Business (B2B) meeting is planned each year to support and strengthen Zamuka Cassava Product.

Henceforth, the B2B meeting was organized by INGABO Farmers' Syndicate with the participants from the following Financial Institutions: CPF INEZA, CLECAM EJO HEZA, EQUITY BANK, BANK of KIGALI; and Government entities (MINICOM, MINAGRI, RICA), as well as farmers' cooperatives/associations.

As B2B outputs, the following action points were taken:

- *Establish a continuous flow of information between Financial Institutions (FIs) and farmers regarding the financial services and products offered by Banks.*
- *Improve the communication channels on the FIs' side with aim of informing cooperatives and farmers about their focal points within the agriculture credit departments.*
- *Professionalize farming practices by encouraging farmers to improve their farming systems and adopt a more professional approach.*
- *Adopt good agricultural practices (GAP) and modern technologies to significantly increase productivity and reduce losses due to low yields and*

inadequate system of Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS).

- *Promote the culture of savings and bank transactions: encourage farmer cooperatives and individuals to increase their savings and make regular deposits in banks.*
- *Improve the coordination among various financial service providers and*

programs to avoid duplication and ensure that services are well targeted in order to enable them to benefit from the available financial products.

- *Encouraging partnerships between FIs and Farmer Organizations to address current constraints in accessing to the financial services.*

COMPONENT 4: Guarantee a sustainable, high-quality service offering for cassava producers through institutional strengthening of INGABO and member cooperatives in the areas of project management, knowledge management, and Monitoring and Evaluation

The Component 4 strongly focuses on governance, human resource capacities and knowledge management for continuous learning and improvement of activities' implementation.

Activity 4.1: Planning, monitoring, evaluation, (mid-term and end-line evaluation), coordination and learning of the project

The SCORE Rwanda Project Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for the year 2026 was prepared and submitted to IFAD and subsequently approved, with a total budget of USD 781,291, including USD 702,648 from the GAFSP grant channeled through IFAD.

Project baseline survey

The baseline survey for the SCORE Rwanda Project, covering 85 farmer cooperatives selected across all 10 Districts, was completed, and the related report was shared with IFAD.

Activity 4.2: Strengthening INGABO governance through General Congress and building cooperatives management

To strengthen the cooperatives' management, the training materials on cooperative leadership and management, financial literacy, gender, project management and business investment and climate change mitigation were developed and multiplied. The training for cooperative leaders and staff on these topics is planned for the first quarter of 2026.

As one General Congress is planned each year, the 2025 Congress took place and reviewed the current status of the INGABO Syndicate, discussed key issues affecting its members, and set strategic directions for the coming year. As key resolutions of the Congress, the work of the current Board members was commended. The Congress therefore recommended that the Board continue to lead the INGABO Syndicate while its statutes are being reviewed to align with current policies governing syndicates in Rwanda.

Activity 4.5: Review and update some policies and procedures (procedure manual...) of INGABO Syndicate

INGABO Syndicate's policies and procedures were reviewed and updated by a hired consultant and subsequently reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. The revised policies include

those related to: (1) Travel; (2) Human Resources; (3) Administration and Finance; (4) Asset Management; (5) Procurement; (6) Risk Management; (7) ICT; and (8) Internal Regulations.

Activity 4.6: Hiring new staff

As per the Project Design Document, the project team consists of the Project Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Accountant, Communication Officer, Driver, and five Field Officers. The five Field Offices—located in Bugesera, Kayonza, Nyamasheke, Nyanza, and Ruhango—are housed in rented facilities and equipped with all necessary resources.

Activity 4.7: Purchasing and maintaining project equipment and materials (office equipment, materials)

Both the head office and the sub-offices are equipped with the following office materials: photocopiers with attached printers, laptops, a projector, and office furniture and equipment. One project car and five motorcycles for the Field Officers have been purchased and are currently in use.

2.2. PROJECT INDICATORS' ACHIEVEMENT

Based on the whole Project logical framework, the Project indicators' achievement is illustrated in the table below:

Table 8: Progress on Project Indicators' achievement

Indicator name	Baseline	Target		Actual	
		Original	Revised (if any)	Previous	Current
% of beneficiary family farms declaring that they have improved their income thanks to the activities promoted under the project	0	50		-	0
GAFSP#1 Number of people receiving direct benefits (person)	0	20500		0	15,422
Of which women	0	10,988		0	7,886
GAFSP#4 Number of producer-based organizations supported (organization)	0	85		0	85
Cassava yield in targeted region (MT/Ha) (25% increase)	14	17.5		14	14.0
GAFSP#2 Land area receiving improved production support (hectare)	0	200		0	20.93
Disaggregation: Area provided with					

Indicator name	Baseline	Target		Actual	
		Original	Revised (if any)	Previous	Current
new/improved irrigation or drainage services (hectare)	NA	NA			NA
GAFSP#3 Number of smallholders' producers/processors receiving productivity enhancement support	0	20500		0	15,422
Of which women	0	10,988		0	7,886
% increase in farmers adopting improved cassava production practices and technologies	0	50%		-	0
Number of existing and new cassava seed entrepreneurs trained and producing quality seed.	55	85		0	47
Of which women	12	30		0	15
Number of screen houses installed for cassava seed multiplication	4	9		9	9
Number of smallholder farmers reached with trainings and other knowledge outreach methods.	6000	20500		6000	21,422
Of which women	3360	10988		3360	11,246
Number of information flow meetings on availability of certified cassava seeds conducted (2 meetings per year. i.e 1 meeting per season)	0	8		-	0
Number of certified cassava seeds distributed	43,000	8,000,000		43,000	171,700
Number of events organized/attended by INGABO where different actors in cassava value chain are involved (exhibitions, workshops, meetings, cassava week)	1	8		1	2
Number of farmers trained on cassava post-harvest handling to improve quality and food safety.	0	20500		0	0
	0	10988		0	0

Indicator name	Baseline	Target		Actual	
		Original	Revised (if any)	Previous	Current
Of which women					
Number of farmers trained on crop rotation and intercropping (bio-fortified beans and soybeans) with cassava and balanced diet	110	20500		110	110
	68	10988		68	68
Of which women					
GAFSP#13: Number of farmers receiving inputs or service on climate resilient or sustainable agriculture practices (farmer)	0	20500		0	15,422
	0	10988		0	7,886
Of which women	0	10250		0	70
Of which, number of farmers adopting technologies or practices received					
GAFSP#14: Agricultural/land area where climate resilient or sustainable agriculture practices are implemented (hectare)	0	410		0	20.93
Number of technical meetings	0	4		0	0
Number of smallholder farmers trained in rainwater harvesting and erosion control techniques.	6000	20500		6000	0
	3360	10988		3360	0
Of which women					
Number of media emissions (TV + radio)	0	16		0	1
Number of agroforestry trees planted	0	164000		0	0
Number of fruits trees planted	0	41000		0	0
GAFSP#5: Persons supported by project in rural areas accessing financial services (person)	0	50		0	0
	0	30			0
Of which women					
GAFSP#6: Farmers that are supported in accessing improved marketing	0	50		0	0

Indicator name	Baseline	Target		Actual	
		Original	Revised (if any)	Previous	Current
opportunities (farmer)	0	30		0	0
Of which, number of females					
Number of women and youth trained on business plan development, entrepreneurship and marketing, access to finance and financial management.	0	590		0	0
Number of B2B meetings	1	8		0	1
Number of bankable project proposals approved by banks	0	50		0	0
Number of women and youth who received seed money through business plans competition in cassava value chain	0	10		0	0
Of which women	0	2		0	0
Of which youth	0	8		0	0
Number of women and youth entrepreneurs who received technical support to upscale their businesses	0	30		0	0
Of which women	0	24		0	0
Of which youth	0	6		0	0
Number of INGABO cooperatives supported and capacitated in management	0	40		0	0
Institutional capacity of supported organizations measured by capacity index (Mapping and profiling):					
- Building up ¹	14	10		14	14
- Developing ²	60	55		60	60

¹ These cooperatives are in nascent stages of development, often facing challenges in financial stability, market access, inclusivity, and sustainability.

² These organizations have some established systems, moderate financial and operational performance, and limited sustainability practices, but they are not yet optimized for high market competitiveness or full commercialization.

Indicator name	Baseline	Target		Actual	
		Original	Revised (if any)	Previous	Current
- Commercialization ³	11	20		11	11
Number of M&E studies	1	3		1	1
Number of external audits (1 per year)	1	4		1	1
Number of INGABO congress meeting	1	4		1	1
Number of cooperatives leaders capacitated	0	85		0	0
Of which women	0	3		0	0
Of which youth	0	1		0	0
Number of publication and media products (included press release, articles, social media) on project activities	0	4		3	5
Number of peer to peer exchange visits conducted	0	2		0	0
Number of policies and manuals reviewed and upgraded	0	2		2	8
Number of hired staff	10	20		10	10
Of which women	2	5		2	3
Of which youth	2	4		2	1
Number of vehicles	0	1		1	1
Number of motorcycles	0	5		5	5

CHAPTER 3. CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

3.1. GENDER AND YOUTH

³ Cooperatives that have achieved high maturity, financial stability, market penetration, and sustainability practices.

Project activities were implemented in an inclusive manner, with both men and women actively involved, and women representing more than 50 percent of the beneficiaries. At field level, the project took into account constraints faced by women, particularly domestic responsibilities that limit their availability during certain hours of the day. As a result, field officers and Farmer Field School (FFS) facilitators adapted training schedules, notably by organizing activities during afternoon hours, to facilitate women's participation.

In addition, cooperative leaders were mobilized to encourage and support women's participation in project activities. This approach contributed to strengthened engagement of women in trainings and implementation activities, and supported the effective application of skills and practices promoted by the project.

3.2. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The project contributed to the promotion of climate-smart agriculture through the training of 15,422 smallholder farmers, including 7,886 women, on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), with a particular emphasis on the Zai pit technique. These trainings equipped farmers with practical skills related to water retention, soil regeneration, and drought resilience, enhancing the capacity of cassava crops to withstand climate variability. The adoption of the Zai pit technique contributes to climate change adaptation by supporting soil erosion control and improving soil health through minimum tillage practices.

3.3. NUTRITION

The SCORE Rwanda project contributed to improved nutrition outcomes primarily through awareness-raising and knowledge exchange during Cassava Week. During the event, various actors showcased innovations in cassava processing, including processed cassava leaves (sombe), which are rich in vitamins, as well as biscuits, cakes, and bread made from composite cassava-wheat flour. These demonstrations enabled participants to better understand improved handling and processing methods that enhance the nutritional value of cassava-based products.

In addition, the project anticipates that the expected increase in cassava productivity resulting from the trainings provided will contribute indirectly to improved nutritional status by raising household incomes and, consequently, enhancing farmers' purchasing power and access to diverse and nutritious foods.

3.4. PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKS

Partnerships between financial institutions and farmer organizations are strongly encouraged. Based on the experiences of CPF INEZA, CLECAM, and DUTERIMBERE IMF PLC, banks and other financial institutions are encouraged to establish collaborative partnerships with the INGABO Syndicate. These partnerships can help address existing constraints and challenges while improving farmers' access to loans and other credit facilities.

The INGABO Syndicate is closely collaborating with ABAHUZA, a cassava market-oriented cooperative located in Rubavu District in the Western Province, to promote cassava market opportunities.

3.5. INNOVATION

CHAPTER 4. SUCCESSES, DIFFICULTIES, LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDED MEASURES

4.1. SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE TO HIGHLIGHT

Cooperative members took the lead in preparing the sites where the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were established and in collecting the basic materials, such as manure and grasses. They also participated in preparing and leveling the areas where the screen houses were constructed.

Since some cassava farmers in the project areas are preparing their fields using the Zai pit technique, they are being supported and guided to access certified cassava planting materials.

4.2. DIFFICULTIES

The implementation of the project during the reporting period was affected by two main factors. First, the delayed disbursement of committed funds by relevant donors led to the postponement of certain planned activities. Second, the cassava Farmer Field School (FFS) plots installed under the project were adversely affected by drought conditions observed during the November–December period, particularly in the Eastern Province, which impacted crop establishment and performance.

4.3. LESSONS LEARNED

To mitigate the effects of the drought, farmers undertook manual watering and supplementary irrigation of the cassava Farmer Field School (FFS) plots.

4.4. RECOMMENDED MEASURES

INGABO Farmers' Syndicate plans to replace cassava plants that were damaged as a result of the prolonged dry conditions, in order to restore the affected demonstration plots and sustain learning activities.

CHAPTER 5. ACTIVITIES NOT CARRIED OUT

5.1. ACTIVITIES NOT CARRIED OUT AND THEIR CAUSES

Table 9: Project activities not carried out and causes

<i>Activities not carried out</i>	<i>Causes</i>	<i>Recommended measures</i>
Activity 1.5: Coordination of different actors in cassava value chain/Meetings at	Limited availability of stakeholders and scheduling conflicts.	Schedule meetings well in advance and use virtual platforms when necessary

<i>Activities not carried out</i>	<i>Causes</i>	<i>Recommended measures</i>
National and District levels.		to ensure participation.
Activity 1.5.5: Market linkage workshops for 111 participants (85 cooperative representatives, 2 from kinazi Cassava processing Plant, 20 cassava aggregators and 4 facilitators from Ingabo syndicate)	Fund committed by the EAFF was not disbursed.	Fast-track the activity when the donor releases the funds.
Activity 2.1.1: Technical meetings (between RAB, INGABO and other key stakeholders) to identify and package climate smart technologies per agro-ecologies	Conflicting schedules and delays in technical preparation.	Coordinate early with stakeholders and ensure all technical information is ready ahead of meetings.
Activity 4.4.1: Conducting an exchange visit among beneficiaries of GAFSP-funded projects supervised by IFAD.	No host country has been identified. The initially planned destination was Burundi; however, due to strained political relations between Burundi and Rwanda, the visit could not take place.	Postpone to the first quarter of 2026 and engage IFAD to identify a suitable host country.

CONCLUSION

During the first year of the SCORE Rwanda Project implementation, the project management team and stakeholders worked diligently to put in place all necessary arrangements for the smooth execution of activities outlined in the 2025 Annual Work Plan and Budget. The successful implementation was largely made possible by the timely availability of funds from GAFSP/IFAD.

APPENDICES

A1. Cassava Week 2025 Report



REPORT OF
CASSAVA WEEK 2021

A2. Project Stories and Media

Project website links

<https://ingabosyndicate.org/gafsp-portfolio-lead-visits-ingabo-farmers-syndicate-to-assess-progress-of-score-rwanda-project/>

Project video links

- https://www.youtube.com/live/r3ISOa9oXAY?si=KgWdbva_QvIp_bv9
- <https://youtu.be/0ktjokKBbGw>

Project social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter)

https://web.facebook.com/p/Ingabo-Farmers-Syndicate-61573002996340/?_rdc=1&_rdr

<https://x.com/AlexisNyandwi12/status/1988637277791101069?s=20>

<https://x.com/AlexisNyandwi12/status/1988638835748618699?s=20>

<https://x.com/AlexisNyandwi12/status/1988632770017374366?s=20>

<https://x.com/INGABOSYNDICAT1/status/1942882520699171281>

MBABAZI Francois Xavier

Chief Executive Officer

