

Bio-Innovate in Burundi

Creating effective partnerships
along bio-innovation value chain

\$109,841

BIF 168,605,935

Total funding allocated to
Burundi partners for 3 years

- 1** Innovation delivered
- 1** Project in which Burundian institutions are partners
- 1** MSc student trained



Bio-Innovate in Burundi

Bio-Innovate Program supports multi-disciplinary biosciences and product-oriented innovation activities in the eastern Africa countries of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

BioInnovate Partners in Burundi

Burundi as with Rwanda is a small landlocked country with an economy largely buoyed by subsistence agriculture. It is also the second most densely populated country in the continent. More than 90% of the population lives in 1.5 million smallholder farming households, which produce 95% of the country's food.

Burundi faces tremendous challenges in diversifying its economy and reducing the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to shocks like climate change, torrential rains, pests, and deteriorating soils. Like other developing countries the country making efforts to address food insecurity, and chronic undernourishment.

Research and Private Sector Organizations

1. Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi
2. Concern, Burundi
3. Pan African Bean Research Alliance/ International
4. Biosciences for Eastern and Central Africa (BecA-ILRI hub)
5. International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Aid tropics
6. International Potato Center Sub-Saharan Africa

Innovation Products and Technologies Developed

Drought and disease resistant bean varieties targeting smallholder farmers.

Improving Food and Nutrition Security, Climate Change Adaptability, Productivity

Beans agricultural innovations

The canning industry in the region has had one canning variety, the Mexican 142 to work with for 60 years. This variety has succumbed to diseases like rust, angular leafspot, bacterial blight and susceptible to drought conditions over time. In addition, there is no organized production of certified seed for the bean farmers servicing the canning industry.

Achievements

Burundi has received and evaluated 40 canning bean lines that exhibit drought and disease resistant characteristics from the bean consortium and have selected and will release promising as a prerequisite to commercialization.

Partnerships

- Pan African Bean Research Alliance/ International
- Concern, Burundi

Bio-Innovate Mandate

Eastern Africa is well endowed with huge renewable bio-resources that can be harnessed to stimulate economic growth and competitively position the region in the global economy. For the region to integrate these bio-resources into economic growth, the link between research, innovation and end users has to be strengthened.

The region faces the challenge of poor crop productivity and resilience to climate change in small-scale farming systems, lack of sustainable industrial waste management systems as well as sustainable use of resources (water and land), minimal investments in technology incubation and other mechanisms for putting research into use, and absence of enabling policy environment for mobilization, catalysis and nurturing of a strong bio-resource and science-led economic growth agenda. Bio-Innovate is providing a regional platform through functional academia and private sector partnerships to support the generation and delivery of bio-innovations that will utilize and translate bio-resources into products and services, as well as innovation policy analysis to support the uptake of these technologies. The Program is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Vision

The Program's vision is to be a model of how to transform bioscience research to innovation and ultimately pass these products to the end user, and in the process ensure that science, technology and innovation actively contributes to socio-economic development and improve livelihoods in the region.

Innovation platforms

Bio-Innovate has adopted a unique approach that involves the creation of functional innovation platforms to deliver products to the end users. To actualize this concept, the Program's consortia projects are designed to include key actors along innovation value chains including scientists, private sector, and other market actors.

The Program is providing an innovation platform that transcends universities, national and international research institutes, regional bioscience initiatives, private sector companies, NGOs and other developmental actors in the eastern Africa region.

Program Management

The Program is hosted at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi, Kenya. The day-to-day management of the Program is conducted by a Program Management Office and supported by a regional technical advisory committee that provides overall Program implementation oversight.

Bio-Innovate
Africa

Bio-Resources Innovations Network
for Eastern Africa Development



www.bioinnovate-africa.org



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