

INTRODUCTION

Since June 2017 CARE International Rwanda and DUHAMIC ADRI have been implementing the PROFIFA Project: "Promoting Financial Inclusion of Smallholder Farmers organized into VSLA Groups". The 3-year project that ended May 31st, 2020 was funded by Access to Finance Rwanda (AFR). Key stakeholders were 4 selected Financial Service Providers (FSPs), namely: Vision Finance Rwanda (VFR), Duterimbere IMF, Réseau Inter-Diocésain de Microfinance (RIM) and Umutanguha Finance Ltd.

PROFIFA that mainly aimed at improving profitability and competitiveness of rural women's agribusinesses targeted 120,000 SHFs aged 25-60 engaged in 4 value chain types: small livestock, maize, banana and vegetables.

PROFIFA improved livelihoods of vulnerable Rwandan women, youth and low-income earners in agribusiness sector through removing barriers that typically hinder efforts to increase production including lack of access to FSPs and markets. Achievements were recorded after participants had received trainings in financial literacy, entrepreneurial, organizational and managerial skills to promote agriculture value chain development alongside facilitating linkages to FSPs and markets.

The 7 PROFIFA districts are Huye, Nyamagabe, Rwamagana, Kayonza, Rulindo, Gakenke and Gisagara.

OVERVIEW

Cumulatively, PROFIFA funded by AFR registered tremendous achievements according to specific SHF groups. 4,658 Farmer Groups were created falling above Project's target of 4,000 representing 116%. Farmer groups engaged in maize, banana, horticulture and small livestock value chains while farmers organised into specialised farmer groups were 37,609 (men) and 80,839 (women) altogether 118,448 (99%), slightly below target of 120,000 farmers.

The Project worked with strategic partner FSPs to unlock agriculture value chain financing by addressing systemic barriers preventing access to formal financial services by SHFs.

- Totally, 56,736 (79%) farmers against 72,000 farmers as Project's targets: 13,082 (men) and 43,654 (women) were linked to formal financial services (opening accounts, savings, remittances and loans). Among them:
- 5,920 youths were cumulatively linked to formal financial services.



- 344 were also cumulatively linked to formal financial services.
- 69,942 (97%) farmers 22,556 (men) and 47,386 (women) were linked to markets falling slightly below 72,000 (target).
- DUHAMIC ADRI had already established 641 demo plots across all PROFIFA districts and supported value chains before the Covid-19 pandemic.



Loans invested in market oriented agriculture

As of September 30th, 2020: Among the total number of farmers linked (56,736 farmers):

- Rwf1,895,222,818 (total loan) distributed to 42,142 SHFs (32,064 female, 9,508 male and 570 youth), with Rwf1,552,344,888 were invested in Agriculture activities, inputs and equipment purchase.



Farmer linkages to formal financial services

- 56,736 SHFs (79 %) linked to formal financial services.
- 4 partner FSPs: Duterimbere IMF, Umutanguha, Vision Fund and Réseau Interdiocésain de Microfinance – RIM)
- 3 non-partner FSPs: SACCO, CLECAM & URWEGO

VSLAs/Farmers Groups

- 4,658 (116%) Farmer Groups were created, over target (4,000).
- 37,609 (men) and 80,839 (women) altogether 118,448 farmers (99%) organised into specialised Farmer Groups.
- 139 Farmer Groups were selected for the pilot of the "Agribusiness Cluster (ABC) Value Chain Model in Huye, Gakenke and Rwamagana.



80,839
women farmers



37,609
men farmers

- 522.53ha were consolidated by 412 Farmer Groups, distributed as follows: 241 (Maize), 30 (Banana), 141 (Horticulture).

Mentorship Programme

- 120 (69 women, 51 men) potential entrepreneurs in small livestock, maize, banana, vegetables as follows 31, 38, 18 and 33 respectively benefited from the Mentorship Programme.
- 60 experienced mentors (17 women).

NOTE

- Over 118,000 PROFIFA participants still face challenges linked to lack of crops insurance to mitigate risks related to natural calamities and climate change

Linkage to markets

- 69,942 (97%) farmers: 22,556 (men) and 47,386 (women) were linked to markets.

