



**USAID**  
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## PROSPER: INCREASED PRIVATE-SECTOR-DRIVEN GROWTH

Rwanda has implemented important economic and structural reforms and sustained its economic growth rate for the last ten years. With the public-sector driven development showing limitations, the private sector will take a leading role in helping to ensure sustainable economic growth.

USAID focuses on expanding economic opportunities in rural areas to improve livelihoods and promote food security for more than 70 percent of Rwandans who rely on subsistence agriculture.

### OVERVIEW OF USAID SUPPORT

Under the Global Food Security Act, the U.S. Government has committed a range of \$10M to \$22M annually since 2011 to promote food security and expand economic opportunities in the agriculture sector across Rwanda. The goal of this U.S. assistance is to increase inclusive and sustainable private sector-driven growth by improving the enabling environment for private sector competitiveness, supporting agriculture modernization as a driver of growth, and expanding employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth, women and persons with disabilities.

### BUSINESS-ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

USAID supported integration and digitalization of trade systems which made it easier for the business community in Rwanda to lodge standardized trade and transport documents with a single-entry point to fulfill regulatory requirements. Among other positive outcomes, these interventions

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have drastically reduced processing time and costs to trade and helped reduce Rwanda's trade deficit, allowing the country to sustain its consistently high levels of economic growth.

USAID helped draft a new national seed law, supporting the government in its efforts to disengage as a dominant and direct player and shift to a regulatory role in the local seed industry. The National Seed Lab supported by USAID will help obtain the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) accreditation needed to position Rwanda as a strategic regional seed exporter.

A variety of projects facilitating more than \$22.4 million in new loans to agribusinesses and farmer cooperatives contributed to the emergence of a robust horticulture export industry that has been growing at 17 percent per year.

USAID also supports the growing role of the private sector in the fertilizer supply chain through facilitation of policy reforms. As a result, fertilizer demand for food crops has doubled from 2014 to 2021, leading to increased yields and productivity.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

The workforce development projects support increasing stable and inclusive employment opportunities, especially in agriculture, a sector that employs 70 percent of Rwandans.

USAID focuses on increasing the soft, hard, and technical skills for jobseekers, while also promoting firm growth and inclusive recruitment, providing strategic co-investment for growth-oriented businesses and increasing awareness of the social and business case for inclusion.



200,000 farmers from vulnerable groups increased their yield by 50 percent as a direct result of USAID's work.

VICTOR MUGARURA / TERA IMBUTO ACTIVITY



USAID supported the National Seed Lab, where a total of 170 varieties of key staple crops were registered, reducing the need for seed imports.

VICTOR MUGARURA / TERA IMBUTO ACTIVITY



USAID's work has doubled fertilizer demand for food crops from 2014 to 2021, leading to increased yields and productivity.

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## IMPROVING INCOMES AND NUTRITION

Our support to modernizing agriculture and building resilience for food systems in Rwanda has been instrumental in curbing food insecurity and malnutrition. The Feed-the-Future projects, strategically used throughout Rwanda, contributed to an annual agriculture growth rate of 5.4 percent.

USAID's approach of co-locating food security, nutrition, market access, youth and women and early childhood development projects with other donor's investments has helped to reduce child malnutrition and contributed to the overall national reduction of child stunting.