

Rwanda Dairy Development Project (RDDP) (2017-2023)

Donors include:
IFAD, Republic of Rwanda

Total Value:
\$8.4 million*

*portion managed by Heifer International out of a \$65 million total budget

This project is being implemented in 13 districts to improve the livelihoods of 30,000 rural families as they increase dairy production and consumption of dairy products. Heifer Rwanda is providing technical assistance to improve milk handling and hygiene, fodder cultivation and animal husbandry. Through the project, 605 new livestock Farmer Field Schools have been organized, 13 sites have been approved for communal livestock handling facilities and 50 milk collection points will be constructed. Farmers are using this infrastructure and technical assistance in areas such as artificial insemination to improve breeding stock and increase productivity. As they improve the quality of their milk and dairy processing capacities, farmers are increasing their incomes. To further strengthen the dairy sector, Heifer Rwanda is supporting pro-dairy public policies and is involved in a larger government initiative, bringing together financial and non-financial services for farmers to build relationships with processors – reducing costs and incentivizing investment.

Post-Harvest Agribusiness Support (PASP) (2015-2020)

Donors include:
IFAD, Republic of Rwanda

Total Value:
\$3.5 million

The project aims to connect 10,500 smallholder dairy farming families to milk collection hubs, through which they gain access to new markets and resources to improve dairy production, increasing household incomes. Farmers are buying shares in hubs where they can sell their milk in bulk, direct to dairy processors and access business development and marketing services. Heifer Rwanda is working with farmers to meet the quality demands of domestic and export markets by improving production procedures and rural agro-processing. This includes clean milk production, grading through rigorous milk testing, procedures, chilling and packing. The project is holding regular meetings to encourage climate-friendly practices such as solar energy and rainwater harvesting, ensuring increases in dairy production and productivity are sustainable and efficient. Farmers are diversifying their incomes and diets by growing maize, beans, cassava and potatoes. Of the 52 cooperatives supported by the project, 24 cooperatives have secured matching grants. The project has surpassed its goal of securing finance for 310 business plans, with cooperatives having financed business plans worth \$934,206 and contributed \$182,668 themselves.

Livestock Infrastructure Support Project (2015-2019)

Donors include: African Development Bank, Republic of Rwanda

Total Value:
\$5.8 million

Implemented in Gatsibo, Kayanza, Nyagatare, Nyamasheke and Rusizi districts, this project supported 14,469 farming families to increase their competitiveness in the livestock sector. Farmers used mixed farming systems and livestock Farmer Field Schools to improve livestock and crop production. Improved breeding and training on dairy farming practices, helped increase milk production. By the end of the project, the average amount of milk produced by a local cow per day was 0.71 gallons, higher than the national average of 0.58 gallons per day. Increased milk production and vegetables gardens enabled farmers to diversify their diets and improve nutrition, with the percentage of families achieving year-round food security increasing from 5.7% at baseline to 29% by the end of the project. The average household annual net income increased significantly from \$87 at baseline to \$878 as families profited from livestock and livestock products, as well as off-farm income sources.

East African Dairy Development (EADD) I and II (2008-2019)

Donors include: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Eli Lilly & Company Foundation & Starbucks Foundation

Total Value:
\$93 million*

** all countries: Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Implemented in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, this project was designed to sustainably improve the livelihoods of smallholder dairy farmers in East Africa, increasing incomes through enhanced production and market access. Heifer International led the implementation of the project through a consortium comprised of the International Livestock Research Institute, TechnoServe, Africa Breeders Service Total Cattle Management and World Agroforestry Centre. Farmers were provided with technical assistance and adopted technologies aimed at improving on-farm production and productivity. The project also helped form and develop sustainable and profitable farmer-owned producer organizations offering essential inputs, extension and business services, and access to reliable milk markets. In the first phase, the project supported 203,778 farming families in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda, 28,649 of which were in Rwanda. Phase II supported a total of 136,684 farming families in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. As a result of project interventions, net dairy incomes increased by up to 80%.

