

INNOVATION FUND

Strengthening agricultural knowledge and the innovation ecosystem for inclusive rural transformation and livelihoods in Eastern Africa (AIRTEA)

PROJECT CONSORTIUM



Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Ghana

Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Uganda

East Africa Farmers Federation (EAF), Kenya

LOCATION



Eastern Africa: Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda

PERIOD



February 2021 – January 2025

DOMAIN

Agriculture, climate change

TARGETS

Youth and women

PROJECT CONTACT



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Mid-term results overview - October 2023

AIRTEA fosters an inclusive research and innovation environment towards sustainable agrarian livelihoods and rural transformation, through: strengthening the production, processing and marketing capacities of youth and women in East Africa's multi-stakeholder value chain innovation platforms and women in



East Africa's multi-stakeholder value chain innovation platforms and linking them to practical solutions within national, regional and global food systems; facilitating the transfer of technologies, knowledge and innovations, and their uptake through multi-stakeholder learning routes; and improving profitability and employment opportunities along agricultural commodity value chains by establishing national and regional Agricultural Business Learning Alliance (ABLA) platforms, business development services and mentorship.

AIRTEA supports 11 projects in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda that focus on agricultural production, processing, marketing, agricultural digital application development, and extension (mainly aquaculture, dairy, and horticulture).

INNOVATION PLATFORMS



Dairy innovations centre with a drought-tolerant cowshed and fabricated low-cost farm machinery for feed processing in Mityana, Uganda.

- 30 innovation platforms established in 5 counties in Kenya, 3 districts in Rwanda and 17 districts in Uganda.
- 26 existing innovation platforms strengthened in operating as a business entity to ensure their sustainability in 9 kenyan counties, 5 districts in Rwanda and 8 districts in Uganda.

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND DEMONSTRATION SITES

In Uganda:

- 3 dairy innovation centres (farms)
- 15 indigenous vegetable production units (sites)
- 3 on-farm potato demonstration sites for farmer-to-farmer training
- 8 bulking centres for production of certified cassava planting material
- 1 Black Soldier Fly larvae production facility for fish feed

In Kenya:

- 2 improved silver cyprinid fish solar cooling and drying systems
- 9 on-farm (5 potato, 4 maize) demonstration sites for farmer-to-farmer training

In Rwanda:

- 6 screenhouses supported to produce virus-free potato seed
- 68 on-farm potato demonstration sites for farmer-to-farmer training
- 2 centres for learning and production of agricultural extension





Urban production of horticultural crops in a screenhouse targeting youth farmers in Kigali, Rwanda



a farmer group on cassava production and processing in Uganda

NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS

- 1 mobile phone-based app for farmer in Kenya
- Digital applications on good agricultural practices
- 2 new value-added (nutrient-dense composite flour instant porridge) products developed from cassava

TRAINING

- About 800 farmers and value chain actors trained on agricultural value-added product processing and good agricultural practices on potato, maize, indigenous vegetables and fish.
- 456 university graduates (277 female) mentored in agribusiness of potato seed production in Rwanda
- 12 youth (6 in Kenya, 6 in Uganda) on providing private agricultural extension services and on developing and operationalising their own business model.
- 521 farmers (192 female) on how to manage and control pests and diseases in Kenya and Uganda
- 561 farmers (286 female) on using e-extension services by young extension agents in Rwanda.
- 118 fisherfolks on group dynamics, marketing and processing of the silver cyprinid fish in Kenya.

MARKET LINKAGES

- Farmers of 15 vegetable production units linked to off-takers in Uganda.
- Farmers of 8 producer groups linked to a cassava processing plant in Northern Uganda.
- Farmers of Nakuru Cooperative in Nakuru county linked to a processor of potato chips in Nairobi, Kenya.

PUBLICATIONS

Examples of publication

- 1 gender mainstreaming training manual for inclusive multi-stakeholder processes in Africa.
- 1 workshop report for institutionalisation of innovation platforms, strategic pathways and government incentives for priority commodity value chains in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.
- 1 case study report for assessing the status of innovation platforms in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.
- 1 training manual on the Agricultural Business Learning Alliance (ABLA) concept
- 2 scientific publications in international journals



Training of farmers in proper planting methods of cassava in a screenhouse in Kenya