



Press Release

October 06, 2020

COVID_19 Response: Japan Provides Quality Seed Worth US \$ 950,000 To Farmers To Impact Vegetable Production

October 6, 2020, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) to support the Economic Recovery Plan of the Government of Rwanda, through the provision of quality vegetable seeds worth US \$ 950,000 USD to Rwandan farmers as response to COVID-19 impact on vegetable production.

The support is part of JICA's contribution to home grown solutions promoted by the Rwandan Government, and will target vegetable value chains that are subject to price volatility and are the most purchased in rural and urban markets. Vegetables targeted include: French beans, onions, tomatoes, carrots, cabbages, green peppers, eggplants and amaranths. Quality Seeds of these vegetables will be distributed and cultivated on approximately 2,100ha across the country in 18 districts identified by MINAGRI and RAB (Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board).

In order to promote farmers' self-reliance and scale up the benefits of this support, JICA will provide seed for one half of the area farmers intend to grow vegetables and farmers will commit to purchase seed for the remaining half, resulting in a total of 4,200ha being cultivated. The beneficiary farmers will be given technical guidance from extension officers in each district, using the experiences and technical skills gained through Smallholder Market-oriented Agriculture Project (SMAP)¹.

For the last 10 years, JICA has been promoting smallholder market-oriented agriculture across the country, which has significantly increased farmers' income. Providing quality vegetable seeds to smallholder farmers, amid the disruption of supply chains caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic, will contribute to the economic recovery of the country as well as to stabilize market prices for both rural and urban consumers. Moreover, through this support, JICA and MINAGRI expect to raise awareness of farmers about the importance of the use of quality seeds for improving the productivity and quality of vegetables and to maintain and sustain farming businesses.

¹“SMAP”, is the technical cooperation project sponsored by JICA. Its component of capacity building for vegetable production was implemented from October 2014 to present.

Basic information on the Project

Intervention	- Support for COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan of Rwanda through Quality Vegetable Seed Distribution and Farmers' Capacity Development
Executing Agencies	- Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), - Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), and - Districts (Nyabihu, Rubavu, Rutsiro, Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Bugesera, Gatsibo, Kayonza, Nyagatare, Rwamagana, Kamonyi, Muhanga, Huye, Nyanza, Musanze, Gicumbi, Burera, Rulindo).
Specific Details	(1) Coverage Period: Season A 2021 and season B 2021 (2) Total Amount: approximately 950,000 USD (3) Total Area to be cultivated: 4200 ha (JICA contribution 50% and farmers contribution 50%). (4) Target Crops: French beans, onions, tomatoes, carrots, cabbages, green peppers, eggplants and amaranths.

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