



Press Release

November 05, 2020

On-time completion of three irrigation dams in Rwamagana District worth approx. 20 million USD constructed under Japanese Grand Aid

On November 5, 2020, three (3) irrigation dams and main irrigation canals in Rwamagana District constructed under Japanese Grant Aid are handed over to the Government of Rwanda (GoR). The irrigation facilities were constructed under The Project for Rehabilitation of Irrigation Facilities in Rwamagana District (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”).

Though the construction works were affected by measures taken against spread of COVID-19, TOBISHIMA Corporation, a Japanese contractor completed the works without any delay from the originally planned schedule, thanks to the supports extended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) through Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB). The Project covers three marshlands totaling 170 hectares and located in three sectors namely Kigabiro, Mwulire, and Rubona in Rwamagana District. These marshlands are being exploited by 1,174 farmers

The Project launched in February 2019 has been implemented through the Japanese Grant Aid up to two billion and seventy-seven million Japanese yen (JPY 2,077,000,000), approx. 20 million USD. The Project includes the rehabilitation of two (2) storage dams, Cyimima and Gashara, the construction of one (1) new storage dam (Bugugu), 23.7 km long concrete main canals along three irrigation schemes, as well as capacity building of farmers in irrigation water management and secondary canal construction among others.

The handover ceremony is attended by Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, His Excellency Ambassador of Japan to Rwanda, Governor of the Eastern Province, the Chief Representative of JICA Rwanda Office and other senior officials of the GoR.

Climate change and unpredictable weather conditions seriously affect the agricultural production in Rwanda. These irrigation schemes will contribute to the priority area 2 “Productivity & Resilience” of the Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA) IV, by building resilience against the climate change, supporting food security and increasing farmers’ income. Moreover, it will contribute to the Economic Recovery Plan set out by the GoR to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak which has slowed down economic activities including agriculture.

In agriculture sector, the Government of Japan through JICA has been implementing several projects in Rwanda.

For irrigation sub-sector, JICA supported the construction of a 300 hectares irrigation scheme in Ngoma 22 in the year 2018. Through on-going Project for Water Management and Capacity Building (WAMCAB), JICA supports capacity building on efficient irrigation water management and effective operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities through Irrigation Water Users Organization (IWUO) in Rwamagana, Ngoma and Gisagara Districts.

JICA also supports increase of smallholder farmers’ income through Smallholder Market-oriented Agriculture Project (SMAP), as well as formulation of Rwanda’s National Rice Development Strategy through Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD). JICA’s support also extends for stunting reduction in the country through a 97 million USD Nutrition Loan Program, and technical cooperation on coffee value-chain enhancement.

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Basic information on the Project

Project Name	The Project For Rehabilitation Of Irrigation Facilities In Rwamagana District.					
Executing Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), - Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), - Rwamagana District 					
Construction	TOBISHIMA Corporation					
Supervision	NTC International Co., Ltd.					
Name of Dam	Storage Capacity ('000 m ³)		Dam Height (m)		Irrigation Area	Length of constructed concrete canal
	Initial	Current	Initial	Current	Ha	Km
Cyimpima	400	640	7.8	11	56	8.8
Gashara	220	640	6	13	66	7.1
Bugugu	30	580	3.5	12	48	7.8