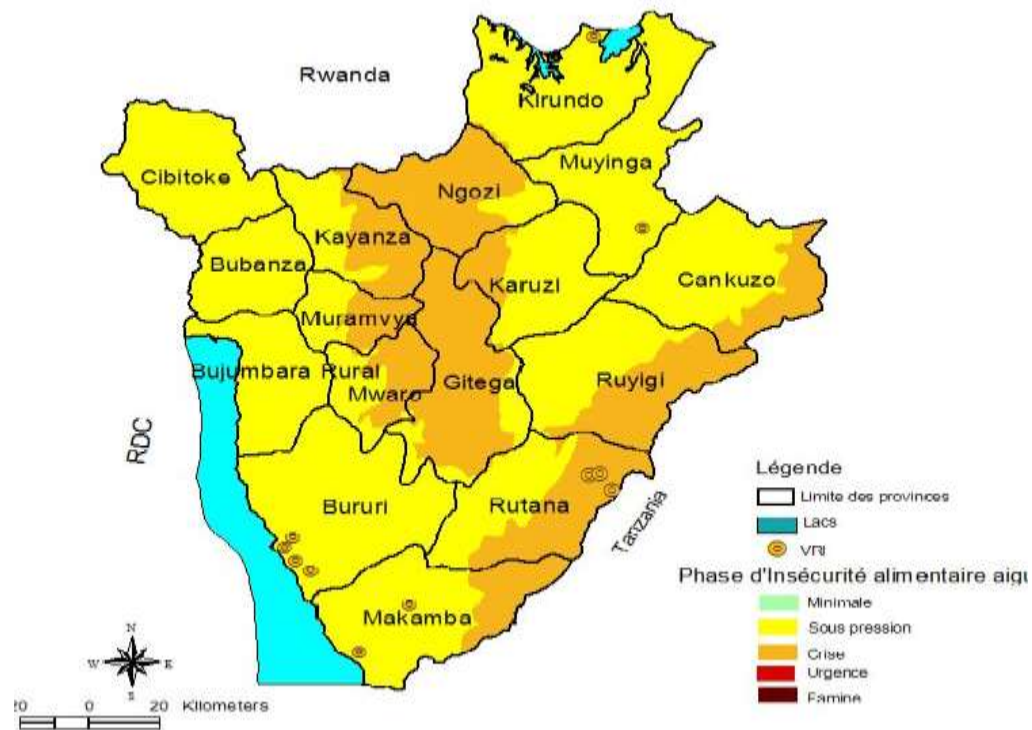


THE STATE OF BURUNDIAN AGRICULTURE AND ITS PROSPECTS



Bujumbura, October 2014

COUNTRY PROFILE

- Total area: 27 834 km²
- Land area : 25 950 km²
- Arable area : 1 400 000 ha
- Altitude ranging from 900 to 2300 m
Total population : 8 053 574 hab. (RGPH 2008)
- Farmer households: 1 556 529 (ENA 2011-201)
- Average density: 289 hab/km²
- Female pulation: 50,8 %
- Male population : 49,2 %
- Rural pulation : 90%
- Urban pulation : 10%
- Population under 15 years : 45%
- Youth (15-24 years): 21,8%
- Growth rate of the population in 2008: 2,4% /year (2% in 2025)

- GDP/capita. 2011: about 240 USD
- Share of agriculture in the GDP 2011: 41%
- Poverty profile:
 - Population living on less than a dollar a day:
 - ❖ 1990: 35%
 - ❖ 1998: 81,3%
 - ❖ 2006: 67 % (69% in rural areas and 34% in urbain areas)
 - Malnutrition rates for children under 5 years:
 - Underweight: 29%(over the acceptable threshold 21%, established by WHO)
 - Chronic malnutrition: 58 % (over the emergency threshold of 40% established by WHO)

II. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE

1. Characteristics of the Burundian agricultural sector

- The agricultural sector is the engine of the national economy
- But it is essentially a subsistence farming.
- Agriculture is practiced in a rudimentary way by about 1.5 million rural households (90% of households) on very small farms whose average size is about 0.5 ha.
- Population pressure on land increases land problems which, in return, worsens the level of productivity and environmental degradation.
- The coexistence of customary law and the written law does not fail to bring about permanent conflicts among rural populations. These conflicts have a negative impact on agricultural production
- Adequate land legislation is in the process of approval.
- Repatriation and reintegration also increase among others, the problem of access to land.

II. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE (CONTINUED)

- Burundi's agriculture depends almost entirely on rainfall.
- Despite its important position in the economy (contribution to the GDP and % of farmer population), agricultural productivity is very low comparing it with other African countries.
- The vulnerability of rural populations is increasing and poverty is accelerating, too.
- In a context of chronic malnutrition with a high prevalence of stunting of more than 50% for children under 5 years;
- Women play a central role in the food sovereignty of households and communities, but the majority remain largely marginalized and dependent. Burundian women representing 51.7% of the total population and 85% are farmers;

II. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE (CONTINUED)

2. Constraints in the sector

A. Agronomic constraints

- The low soil fertility and degradation of natural ecosystems;
- Insufficient and low use of efficient production inputs (selected seeds and seedlings, improved animal breeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural tools and products, etc.);
- The resurgence of diseases and pests seriously damaging crops, stored food and animals.

B. Climate-related constraints

- Climate disturbances (mostly rain-related) that disrupt agricultural activities and cause the collapse of production and / or destruction of crops, livestock animals and the biodiversity. These climate disturbances may also induce the proliferation and expansion of insect disease vectors pathogens for humans.

II. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE (CONTINUED)

c. Technological constraints

The lack of technological innovations and appropriate production systems following the disruption of research and extension services subsequent to the crisis. These notably include:

- Lack of control and lack of technics for the management of water resources for irrigation of crops and production of electric power;
- Lack of transformation and conservation technologies for agricultural, forestry and livestock products;
- Low promotion of alternative and renewable energy sources (electric, wind, solar) to well conserve natural resources (peatlands, artificial forestry, forests and natural reserves);
- Low integration of agriculture to forestry and livestock for sustainable protection of land, pasture and natural ecosystems;
- Insufficient laboratories and skilled human resources to control the quality of production inputs and food and export products

II. STATE OF AGRICULTURE(CONTINUED)

Socio-economic constraints

- The population pressure on land, on protected natural ecosystems and the lack of para-agricultural activities generating income;
- The low purchasing power and the poor level of training among rural households preventing them from accessing agricultural credit and performance factors of production;
- The lack of mechanisms of sustainable funding to the rural sector's development;
- The narrowness of the markets for the flow of agricultural and livestock products ;
- The land-lockedness of the country and of many production rural areas causing the soaring of production costs and poor sales of agricultural products;

II. STATE OF AGRICULTURE(CONTINUED)

- The existence of many war destitute and weather disturbances unable to contribute to agricultural production following abandonment of their farms (due to war) or prolonged drought;
- Inadequate political and macroeconomic measures facilitating domestic and foreign private investors in the agricultural sector (fiscal measures, the credit system, security of persons and property, monetary policies, etc.);
- The lack of the resources needed for the rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment for support to production , consolidation of animal restocking, reforestation of damaged ecosystems and revitalization of production support services weakened by 12 years of civil war:

II. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE(CONTINUED)

d. Institutional constraints

- The low efficiency of production support services(research, extension, production and distribution of agricultural inputs, processing and post-harvest conservation ...) due to lack of adequate material, financial and human resources
- The low involvement of the private sector in the funding of agricultural and livestock production activities. Managers and technicians trained in agricultural and veterinary sciences are also few or less structured in private production associations to serve as models;
- Lack of harmonization of intervention approaches in favor of the agricultural sector.

II. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE(CONTINUED)

4. Challenges to the sector

To reach a growth rate of 6% per year, there is a number of challenges that the agricultural sector has to address:

- General resort to best farm management practices ;
- Major resort to inputs
- Increased use of water resources for agricultural production
- Implementation of the sector approach for many products and rationalization of income-generating activities allowing to boost production is also a major challenge.
- Settlement of land conflicts

II. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE(CONTINUED)

3. Potentials of the sector

The major potentials are :

- A big and very laborious farmer population,
- Opportunities to farm a big range of varied crops (tropical and temperate crops);
- Abundant rainfall (6-9 months of rainfall over the year) that allows two cropping seasons annually with opportunities to produce throughout the year if water control is ensured;
- Deposits of limestone, dolomite and phosphate rock;
- An extensive hydrological network ;
- A possible extension of the import and export market in the framework of the East African Community (EAC);
- **Productivity benefits are a vital asset for growth:** the food crop yields are very low in comparison with the yields of other African countries. Experiences of ongoing projects have shown that, with a good technical coaching and a minimum of integration of agriculture and livestock, it was possible to double or even triple the yields for some basic crops. **(Example: Rice (SRI: passage from 2 to 7t of paddy rice, possibility to reach 10t with quality seed and fertilizers**

II. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE(CONTINUED)

- **Considerable potential exists in the development of the sector.** Agricultural cash and export crops (coffee, tea, cotton, palm oil, sugar cane, tobacco, rice, bark) are major sources of growth for the agricultural sector.
- The quality of Burundian coffee, tea and cotton is widely recognized. These crops are the main export products of the country and sources of foreign currency, which confer to them a strategic role in the national economic policy.

III. PROSPECTS(CONTINUED)

1. institutional vision of the sector

Vision 2025 : “Vision 2025 “Render modernization and diversification of agriculture and livestock one of priorities for economic growth”.

The institutional vision is the target for an agricultural and livestock sector:

- That is well managed and efficient
- That firmly hinge on good governance and public interest;
- Based on technological, economic and social progress;
- with qualified and motivated human resources;
- That improves business conditions, sustainable management of ecosystems and human well-being of people all over the country.

On the Long Term (the horizon 2025 and even 2040 = A Generation), we can define the institutional vision as follows:

"What types of agricultural administration for what types of agriculture and for what types of agricultural development, with which types of farmers and in what institutional environment?"

III. PROSPECTS (CONTINUED)

2. Framework and strategic orientation of the sector

2.1 Strategic Framework for the Fight against Poverty (CSLP),

In its second axis, development of the agricultural sector is identified as the primary source of economic growth. Priority actions include development of agricultural production (food and export crops, livestock and fisheries)

2.2 National Strategy for Agriculture (2008-2015)

Overall objective:

Rehabilitate the production tool and revitalize the farming activity in order to boost ASZ production and reach or surpass highest levels of the period before the crisis and, and also to modernize on the medium and long terms, the agricultural sector in a bid to transform agriculture from a subsistence agriculture to a market-oriented one. An annual growth rate of 6% is agreed upon.

III. PROSPECTS (CONTINUED)

Specific objectives:

- Increase of agricultural productivity and production and development of sustainable production systems in order to restore in the short and medium terms, the food self-sufficiency recorded before 1993, and in the long term, achieve an annual growth of the food supply superior to that of the population (3%);
- Promote sectors and agribusiness with a view to expand and diversify sources of growth whose export and import products-those of substitution, in order to help increase the purchasing power of households and improve financial resources of the State;
- Professionalize producers and develop private initiatives to help them defend their interests and become actors of their own development while helping private operators to get involved in agricultural training, development and diversification of profitable sectors;
- Build management and sustainable development capacities of the agricultural sector in order to manage to transform the subsistence agriculture into a market-oriented agriculture that is profitable and managed by professionals

III. PROSPECTS(CONTINUED)

2.3. The National Investment Programme for the Agricultural Sector

The National Programme for Agricultural Investment(PNIA) aims at operationalising the National Agricultural Strategy and the CSLPII

Objective of the PNIA

Its objectives are to:

- ensure food security for all,
- increase household incomes,
- earn foreign currency,
- provide material to the industrial sector and create jobs in the sector of transformation and services connected to agriculture

Four programs have been defined in the PNIA: :

- Sustainable increase in production and food security
- Professionalization of producers and promotion of innovation
- Development of sectors and agri-business
- Revitalization of public institutions

III. PROSPECTS(CONTINUED)

The four programmes themselves fall into 15 Sub-programmes :

P1. Sustainable increase of production and food security	P2. Professionalization of producers and promotion of innovation	P3. Sector and agrobusiness development	P4. Building capacities of public institutions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protection of productive assets 2. Establishment and rehabilitation of irrigated areas 3. Intensification of agricultural production 4. Development of fishing and aquaculture 5. Food security , nutrition and management of vulnerability 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organisation of producers and capacity building 2. Development of proximity services and innovation 3. Rural financing 4. Research / Development 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Export sectors 2. Food and livestock chains 3. Rural infrastructures 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revitalisation of the MINAGRIE 2. Improvement of working farmework and conditions 3. Support to implementation of the PNIA

III. PROSPECTS (CONTINUED)

2.4 Existence of sub-sectoral strategies

- Strategic orientation Document for the Livestock sector
- National strategy for the development of aquaculture
- Strategy for the development of Horticulture
- Strategy for support to Producer organisations (being drafted)
- Strategy for the development of wetlands and watersheds;
- Strategy for the development of the rice sector;
- Strategy for the development of the banana industry;
- **Etc.**

IV FUNDING OF SECTEUR

Part of the budget that is allocated to agriculture

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Budget Général (Ressources nationales)			675,7	697,1	794,9	818,4	813,1
Budget MINAGRIE (Ressources nationales)	8,3	16,9	18,0	43,2	46,0	38,8	33,0
Part agriculture (%)			2,7%	6,2%	5,8%	4,7%	4,1%
Budget Général (+ ressources extérieures)	520,4	578,7	685,7	1.026,2	1.268,2	1.413,3	1.438,1
Budget MINAGRIE (+ ressources extérieures)	11,2	64,7	44,0	75,7	143,8	128,0	173,0
Part agriculture (%)	2,1%	11,2%	6,4%	7,4%	11,3%	9,1%	12,0%

Budget en milliards de FBU

Source : Lois de finances