

Reducing rural poverty Together we are stronger!

As a way to develop their agricultural production, 3,250 men and women farmers, organized in associations or cooperatives, are trained and supervised in this project. Families improve their harvests through agricultural training, quality seeds and cattle. The result: they have more food and more income, being able to sell some of their crops.

Agro-ecology: sustainable management of resources.

Farmers are trained in agro-ecology as, for example, agro-forestry, seeding on a leaf bed and the production and use of organic manure. These methods help retain moisture in the soil for a longer time, help improve soil fertility and fight against erosion which is a major problem in Rwanda.

Savings and loans

With the training on savings and loans, cooperatives can get credits which allow them to develop their activities. Several of them have already started rearing goats, pigs or cattle or have gone into the marketing of agricultural produce.

Our programme director, Roger Zürcher visiting one of the cooperatives.



Support for 16 new cooperatives

The third phase of the project will support 16 new agricultural cooperatives and train them to:

- **Develop a style of agriculture which is sustainable and performing,** agro-ecological practices will improve output without threatening the natural environmental balance.
- **Develop entrepreneurialism, the workings of a cooperative and managing credit.** With access to credit, cooperatives can finance their development while being integrated in the local micro-finance network.

Support farming families like Xavera's

With CHF 40.-

You provide a goat for a family.

With CHF 100.-

You provide market gardening kits (seeds, watering can, tools) for 4 families.

With CHF 250.-

You provide 3 days of training for 10 people.

FH Switzerland is committed to the fight against poverty locally through personal and community development throughout the world. FH Switzerland is part of the international network of Food for the Hungry (FH).



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FH Switzerland is a member of the Geneva Federation for Cooperation and is certified by the Code of honor of the Swiss Evangelic Alliance (AES).

FEDERATION
GENEVOISE
DE COOPERATION



Rwanda: Together, producing more and better.

Support for agricultural cooperatives in the Southern province Xavera: "Nobody is isolated anymore."



fhAgriculture
SUBSTAINABLE IMPACT





Sustainable agriculture

In the struggle against food insecurity, FH Rwanda has been involved with communities in the Southern province for the past 10 years. This area is amongst the poorest of the country, mostly because of the poor fertility of the soil, high population density and a high level of illiteracy.

In 2008, with the support of the FGC (Geneva Foundation for Cooperation), FH Switzerland started an agricultural development programme which will, **in time, contribute to the food security of about 15,000 people.**

In its third phase (2013-2016) the focus will be on organic agriculture as a means to preserve the natural environmental balance on which farmers depend, not just today's but future generations as well.

More than a 1,000 patients every month



In the same area, in Gikomero, FH Switzerland financed the extension of a health care centre which is now very much appreciated: every month more than a 1,000 patients receive care and between 17 and 20 children are born.



"It's not possible to develop all alone".

Xavera Mukamana is the president of the cooperative Terimberemutegarugori: "Women who are moving forward". For Xavera the cooperative is much more than a group of workers. It is a place to share and provide mutual support.



How did you come to join the cooperative ?

It was in 2011. I had health problems. A neighbor came to talk to me and said that it wasn't possible to succeed and to develop on your own. She suggested that we get together so that we could be more productive. After a time, she came to see me again with other neighbors and we found a place where we

could discuss. We decided that we would carry on farming together, like we had done all our lives.

How has your life changed since then ?

I was able to discuss my problems with other people. None of us is isolated any longer. For example, the other women helped me to go to the health centre for treatment in explaining how to get there and lending me money for the journey.

We have also learned a lot since we have partnered with FH: I now know how to open a bank account and do bookkeeping. That helps a lot in my family life. We have had much success with goat rearing. Each member of the cooperative has been able to get one. With the goat, I now have manure for my vegetable garden. I also have enough money to pay for health insurance and school fees for my children. I am happy because my children are healthy.

What are your projects for the future ?

We would like to build a place to store the cassava after it is harvested. We would also like to be able to produce cassava flour for sale. Personally, I would like to buy a cow. If all goes well, I'll have one in two years !

Xavera is 40 years old, she's married and has 4 children, aged between 7 and 15. The Terimberemutegarugori cooperative grows cassava and vegetables. They also have a small goat herd and some pigs. The cooperative is made up of 25 people, 24 of whom are women.

