

 **RWANDA FOOD INNOVATION
PARTNERSHIP** | Building Africa's Food Future

RFIES · APPROVED BY CABINET, JULY 2026

RWANDA FOOD INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM STRATEGY

2026 – 2035 *From Vision to Implementation*

WHY FOOD INNOVATION, WHY NOW

THE CASE FOR A DELIBERATE, SYSTEM-WIDE APPROACH

Food systems are changing everywhere. Africa needs solutions built for its own context, and Rwanda is building the platform to deliver them.

THE GLOBAL SHIFT

Climate and environmental pressure, demographic change, shifting diets and the demand for resilient supply chains are reshaping food systems at every level. These challenges present real opportunities for Rwanda and the continent.

WHAT INNOVATION MUST DELIVER

- ◆ Food security and nutrition
- ◆ Environmentally friendlier systems
- ◆ More jobs and better livelihoods

Rwanda's food system is not yet performing at the level its national vision requires.

01
60%

of national employment depends on agriculture and food systems

02
27%

of children under five are stunted, a persistent dietary quality gap

03
40%

post-harvest losses across perishable value chains

04
98.5%

of farmland tilled by hand, an urgent need for mechanisation

With growing populations and a high-income ambition, incremental gains will not get us there.

RFIES is anchored in Vision 2050, NST2 and PSTA5, and approved by Cabinet. Rwanda is the launch pad for innovation that scales.

THE STRATEGY

AFRICA'S LEADING DESTINATION FOR FOOD SYSTEMS INNOVATION BY 2035

One goal, three strategic objectives, and four priority domains where Rwanda can credibly compete.

THE STRATEGIC GOAL

Rwanda as Africa's leading destination for food systems innovation — catalysing innovations that improve food security and nutrition, create dignified jobs, and advance sustainability.

THREE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1 Strengthen business environment and regulation
- 2 Foster private sector growth and entrepreneurship
- 3 Foster applied R&D and human capital

01 MODERN PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

Seeds, soil health, precision agriculture, irrigation and AI-enabled services.

Ambition: an exemplar country for sustainable production innovation.

02 STRENGTHENING THE MIDDLE OF THE VALUE CHAIN

Cold chain, storage, traceability, circular economy and sustainable packaging.

Ambition: the first country to achieve zero food loss by 2035.

03 PROTEIN DIVERSIFICATION

Feed-first efficiency, fermentation and biomass protein, plant-based alternatives.

Ambition: affordable protein for Rwanda and for regional export.

04 NUTRITION, HEALTH & BIOTECH INNOVATION

Biofortified varieties, fortified products, indigenous African crops, school feeding.

Target: stunting reduced from 27% to below 15% by 2029.

THE FOUNDATION PHASE · 2026 – 2027

THREE ACCELERATOR PROGRAMS LAUNCHING NOW

Design is complete and delivery has started — a fourth accelerator, Human Capital, follows.

01 POLICY & REGULATORY ACCELERATOR

Builds Rwanda's Food Innovation Regulatory Sandbox and a clearer, faster route to approve novel products.

TARGETS BY 2035

- 50 pilots run through the sandbox
- 275+ regulators and professionals trained
- Dossier to decision in under 60 days

MOMENTUM

Sandbox design has kicked off — six focus areas under assessment, with an open route for other qualifying innovations.

02 INVESTMENT ACCELERATOR

Develops investment-ready business cases across the four domains and mobilises blended finance and co-investment.

TARGETS BY 2035

- 50+ investments into agri-food innovation
- USD 50M+ mobilised · 30,000 jobs created
- Pipeline of 200+ global companies

MOMENTUM

MoU signed with SunCulture to scale solar irrigation — RFIP is ready to be the front door for more investors.

03 VENTURE & SME ACCELERATOR

Backs Rwanda's next generation of food innovators and turns real market gaps into innovation challenges.

TARGETS BY 2035

- 100+ ventures supported by 2035
- Survival above 50% · commercialisation above 30%
- Innovation challenges across all four domains

MOMENTUM

Technical support to JASIRI's agri-food cohort — augmenting what works, with market-gap analysis ready for partners.

THE DELIVERY VEHICLE & ITS GOVERNANCE

THE RWANDA FOOD INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

A multi-stakeholder platform bringing partners together to envision, design, commercialize, and scale innovations across Africa's food systems.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE

MINAGRI (Chair) · MINICT · RDB · OTP · MoH · MoE · MINECOFIN
· MINICOM · MINEDUC

MINAGRI

Strategic lead & institutional anchor

HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY GROUP

MINAGRI & MINICT (Co-Chairs) · 14 senior members from private
sector, DFIs, implementing partners and academia

RFIP SECRETARIAT

Hosted by MINAGRI · incubated by African Century Group and C4Impact · supported by a GoR Technical Committee

SIX SECRETARIAT FUNCTIONS

01 Front Door

02 Knowledge Catalyzer

03 Technology Catalyzer

04 Finance Catalyzer

05 Feedback Loops

06 Branding & Positioning

MOMENTUM SINCE APRIL 2026

THE STRATEGY IS ALREADY IN MOTION

Delivered under MINAGRI's leadership by a lean RFIP Secretariat, incubated by African Century Group and C4Impact.

✓ ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNMENT

The RFIES 2026–2035 and the RFIP were approved by Cabinet in July 2026. The strategy is published on the RFIP website.

✓ SECRETARIAT OPERATIONAL

Delivering against a detailed multi-year work plan across the full set of workstreams.

✓ GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ESTABLISHED

High-Level Advisory Group of 14 senior members convened twice; Steering and Technical Committees defined.

✓ PROGRAMS DESIGNED

Three flagship concept notes refined through multi-stakeholder consultation — ready for co-creation and co-financing with partners.

✓ PRIVATE SECTOR TRACTION

20+ companies engaged: irrigation, soil health, crop protection, protein, biologicals, packaging and digital / AI services.

✓ RESOURCE MOBILIZATION UNDERWAY

Development Partner Roundtable co-hosted with the Gates Foundation, alongside engagement with DFIs and local institutional investors.

From strategy validation to strong incubation: governance convened, programs in creation, engagements underway, and a partner pipeline forming.

THE RFIP PARTNERS GROUP

Government, private sector, implementing partners, research & academia and development partners — building one ecosystem together.

01 WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

- Strengthen ecosystem coordination
- Mobilise investment and partnerships
- Accelerate commercialisation of innovations
- Support policy and regulatory reform
- Make Rwanda a leading global food innovation ecosystem

02 WHAT PARTNERS GAIN

- A seat on the national platform
- Direct engagement with Government
- Collaboration and co-investment links
- Visibility across the ecosystem

03 WHAT WE ASK

- Champion the shared vision
- Bring expertise and capacity
- Invest and collaborate openly

Light by design. Partners contribute according to their strengths. In-kind counts. No fees during the incubation phase.

THE RFIP PARTNERS GROUP

WHO IS BUILDING THIS WITH US

Our Partners Group spans five constituency groups — today we especially recognize the **founding partners** who have stepped forward.

PUBLIC SECTOR



PRIVATE SECTOR



RFIP PARTNERS GROUP

Building Africa's Food Future

RESEARCH & ACADEMIA



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



IMPLEMENTING
PARTNERS



**AFRICA'S LEADING DESTINATION FOR FOOD SYSTEMS INNOVATION WILL BE IN
RWANDA.**

BE PART OF FOUNDING IT.

Build in Rwanda. Scale across Africa.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Scan the QR code for the RFIP brochure.

WWW.RFIP.RW

