

## REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL RESOURCES

#### RWANDA AGRICULTURE BOARD (RAB)

#### *The ONE COW PER POOR FAMILY Program (Girinka) IN RWANDA*

This program is among home grown initiatives geared at poverty reduction and particularly through fighting malnutrition. The Government of Rwanda started the ‘One cow per poor family program’ or Girinka in 2006 with the initiative spear headed by His Excellency the president Paul KAGAME. In this program, a farmer is given an in-calf heifer and is obliged to pass on to the first female offspring to another program beneficiary who is selected by local administration authorities and validated by MINAGRI/RAB.

#### **GIRINKA PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

- ▶ Fight malnutrition and more so from children and gravid mothers (the cow provides milk for family consumption as a fight against malnourishment)
- ▶ Increase crop productivity (the cow produces manure that is used to increase crop production)
- ▶ Increase house hold incomes through surplus milk sales.
- ▶ Promote social harmony/cohesion (the family passes on the first heifer to the next and in the Rwandan culture giving and receiving a cow from someone builds a strong bond of friendship)

## Girinka beneficiary selection criteria

- ▶ Must not be owning a cow and vulnerable in the community
- ▶ Be owning land ranging at least from 0.25 to 0.75 Ha
- ▶ Must be ready for training in basic animal husbandry practices (nutrition, breeding, housing, disease control and management practices)
- ▶ Must be credible in the locality and be able to practice the basic animal management practices



A happy family in One Cow per Poor Family Program in Rwamagana district

### *SOURCE OF ANIMALS*

- ▶ Girinka decentralization
- ▶ Various institutions ( Government, NGOs both Local and International ones, Private institutions and individual contributions )
- ▶ RAB ad hoc purchases

- ▶ There are other local initiatives which are traditions of the Rwandese people organized by farmers themselves that include (*KOROZANYA*) which is a donation in the Rwandan culture where a person donates a cow to another one.

*Number of families that received cattle since Girinka program inception*

Province	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Kigali City	236	331	467	375	166	495	514	266	2850
North	648	1,384	3,567	6557	8962	3038	2207	905	27268
South	1,561	5,028	8,924	9779	2992	4570	3768	2021	37643
East	102	4,191	12,189	6094	3585	3566	8259	1280	39266
West	463	3005	3,552	16136	3622	4350	8715	1355	41198
Total	3010	13,939	28,699	38941	19327	16019	23463	5827	149225

*The benefits from one cow per poor family*

- ▶ Has contributed to increased milk production in the country
- ▶ Has assisted farmers to increase crop production
- ▶ Has increased income from milk sales.
- ▶ Some Girinka beneficiaries have managed to get loans from the bank hence development
- ▶ The one cow per poor family has created employment to individuals

- ▶ One cow per poor families has improved the health status of beneficiaries
- ▶ One cow has created an opportunity to Education of family members

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT RAB**