CABI PlantwisePlus

PlantwisePlus in Burundi

Annual Report 2025

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KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE

PlantwisePlus enables countries to confidently face the challenges of plant health threats in a changing climate by empowering smallholder farmers to increase income, food security and food safety by producing more and higher quality food.

Contents

Acronyms

ABREVPA	Autorité Burundaise de Régulation des Produits Vétérinaires, des Pesticides et des Aliments
BECEPFTFP	Bureau d'Études des Curricula de l'Enseignement des Postes de Formation Technique et Professionnelle
CABI	CAB International
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (Netherlands)
DPV	Département de la Protection des Végétaux
EAC	East African Community
EKN	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
GRAS	Gender and Rural Advisory Services
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ISABU	Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi
ITABs	Institut Technique Agricole du Burundi (Agricultural Vocational Schools)
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
KEPHIS	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
MEC	Mass Extension Campaign
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MINEAGRIE	Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage
MMB	Mango Mealybug (*Rastrococcus invadens*)
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ONCCS	Office National de Contrôle et de Certification des Semences
PCN	Potato Cyst Nematode
PHR	Plant Health Rally
PMB	Papaya Mealybug (*Paracoccus marginatus*)
POMS	PlantwisePlus Online Management System
PRA	Pest Risk Analysis
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SRP	Soft Rot Pectobacteriaceae
TR4	Tropical Race 4 of Fusarium *oxysporum* f.sp. cubense
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive Summary

PlantwisePlus Burundi is a multi-year project designed to strengthen the national plant health system and support sustainable crop production, farmer livelihoods and agricultural resilience. The project is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) and implemented by CABI in close collaboration with national research, regulatory and education institutions. These include the Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage (MINEAGRIE), the Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi (ISABU), the Département de la Protection des Végétaux (DPV), the Autorité Burundaise de Régulation des Produits Vétérinaires, des Pesticides et des Aliments (ABREVPA), the Office National de Contrôle et de Certification des Semences (ONCCS), the Institut Technique Agricole du Burundi (ITABs), and universities.

Project activities are organized around three mutually reinforcing outcome areas that guide implementation:

a. **Improved access to farmer agricultural advisory services,**
b. **Reduced risk from crop protection practices, and**
c. **Improved phytosanitary services.**

This report presents progress achieved during the 2025 implementation period.

Following the delayed rollout in late 2024, PlantwisePlus Burundi shifted into an accelerated implementation phase throughout 2025. The project made substantial progress across all three outcome areas. Advisory services expanded nationwide. Regulatory and crop protection systems were strengthened. Phytosanitary governance advanced toward more risk-based and institutionalized processes. Together, these achievements represent an important step toward a more resilient and nationally owned plant health system.

Outcome 1: Improved access to farmer agricultural advisory services

Plant clinic operations expanded rapidly, achieving full national coverage across all provinces and communes. Ninety-five new clinics were established, and five permanent clinics were integrated within the DPV. Through this network, 79,115 farmers – 60% of them women – received plant health advice. National teams trained 449 new plant doctors, bringing the pool of trained personnel to 789. Collaboration with the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) broadened the technical depth of advisory services, while refresher meetings reinforced service quality and consistency.

Institutionalization efforts gained momentum. The Department of Statistics initiated development of a national agricultural data tool modelled on the plant clinic prescription form. Discussions also continued on integrating plant clinic responsibilities into job descriptions and government performance systems. Integration of PlantwisePlus modules into all 47 ITABs ensured a long-term pipeline of extension personnel skilled in diagnostics and advisory practices. More than 1,300 students began training under the revised curriculum.

Complementary extension approaches broadened the project's reach in 2025. Plant health rallies (PHR) engaged an estimated 60,000 farmers. The national Mass Extension Campaign (MEC) delivered targeted messages on priority pests through radio, digital platforms and printed materials. Digital advisory tools were piloted, and a One Health feasibility study identified opportunities to strengthen linkages among plant, environmental and human health. Gender responsiveness was also reinforced through analytical work, a trainer's manual and community-level dialogues.

Outcome 2: Reduced risk from crop protection practices

Awareness of pesticide risks increased through the national pesticide Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) assessment. The assessment generated evidence on pesticide-use behaviour and regulatory gaps, and its findings informed a targeted Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy. Biological control also progressed significantly. A parasitoid rearing facility for mango mealybug (MMB) was established at ISABU and supported by specialized staff training in Kenya. Early field releases showed encouraging signs of establishment. A rapid assessment of papaya mealybug (PMB) guided preparation of a regulatory dossier for *Acerophagus papayae*. ABREVPA also prioritized 16 biopesticides for national evaluation beginning in 2026.

A pilot agri-service model trained 41 youth, demonstrating potential for local delivery of safer crop protection solutions.

Outcome 3: Improved phytosanitary services

Phytosanitary capacity improved markedly in 2025. A national laboratory assessment identified opportunities to optimize diagnostic resources across seven institutions and provided the basis for establishing a coordinated laboratory network. DPV also renewed its ISO/IEC 17020:2012 accreditation, reinforcing national inspection and certification credibility. Further progress was achieved through the development of national protocols for Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) and Soft Rot Pectobacteriaceae (SRP), accompanied by training for 30 staff. A joint technical mission with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) further strengthened diagnostic skills for key potato quarantine pests.

Risk-based governance advanced steadily in 2025. Horizon scanning and the completion of 21 Pest Risk Analyses (PRAs) strengthened national capacity to identify and prioritize emerging threats. The updated List of Regulated Pests replaced the 2006 version, marking a major regulatory milestone. Contingency plans for *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cubense* Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4) and other priority pests were finalized. Surveillance of solanaceous viruses using metagenomic sequencing further enhanced early detection capacity.

Contribution to national food and nutrition security

Project achievements contributed directly to the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) objectives. Advisory services and communication outreach improved farmer knowledge, resilience and inclusion. Plant clinic data indicated that more than 21,360 hectares of farmland were brought under improved crop protection practices. Institutional strengthening across government agencies reinforced the basis for evidence-based plant health governance.

Emerging signs of sustainability

Multiple sustainability pathways were strengthened in 2025. Plant clinics are increasingly integrated within national advisory systems and supported by a growing cadre of national trainers. Curriculum integration within ITABs ensures a steady pipeline of trained personnel. Investments in biological control infrastructure and regulatory processes established foundations for safer crop protection solutions. Strengthened phytosanitary frameworks, supported by horizon scanning, PRA processes and updated pest lists, enhanced readiness for emerging threats. Postgraduate research partnerships continue to build specialized expertise within national institutions.

Looking ahead to 2026

With nationwide systems now established, the focus in 2026 will shift toward consolidation. Priorities include validating farmer-level adoption outcomes and deepening institutional ownership. They also include advancing regulatory processes for biological control and biopesticides. Strengthening the integration of surveillance and plant clinic data within national systems is another priority. These efforts will help ensure that gains achieved in 2025 translate into long-term, nationally owned and sustainable plant health services.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, PlantwisePlus Burundi significantly accelerated implementation following the delayed project start in Q3 2024. The project also initiated several top-up activities designed to strengthen long-term legacy and support sustainability. This section summarises the key achievements delivered under the 2025 annual work plan. Annex 1 presents detailed progress against planned activities, drawing on the project Gantt Chart to highlight both areas where implementation exceeded expectations and activities requiring further attention.

Outcome 1: Improved access to farmer agricultural advisory services

Consolidated plant clinic operations

In 2025, the PlantwisePlus advisory network achieved full national scale. Plant clinic operations expanded rapidly, with 95 new clinics established and five permanent clinics integrated within the DPV. These additions brought the total number of functional clinics to 221, ensuring coverage across all provinces and communes. Through this network, 79,115 farmers, 60% of them women, received plant health advice during the year.

Operational growth was matched by strengthened human capacity. A cohort of 449 new plant doctors (25% women) completed training led by national teams with technical support from CABI. This group included zone agronomists and staff from DPV, ABREVPA, IFDC programmes, ITABs and producer organizations. Their addition brings the national pool of trained plant doctors to 789, supported by 84 national trainers.

Collaboration with IFDC further broadened the technical content of advisory services. Joint Training-of-Trainers (ToTs) sessions delivered under IFDC programmes equipped national trainers to deliver integrated advice on pest management, seed quality and soil fertility. This shift enables plant doctors to move beyond basic diagnostics and provide more holistic, productivity-enhancing guidance.

Service quality was enhanced through two national cluster refresher meetings. These meetings allowed plant doctors to exchange field experiences, discuss emerging pest issues and strengthen consistency in advisory delivery. In parallel, institutionalization of plant clinic data gained momentum. A multi-stakeholder data forum was convened to accelerate the integration of plant clinic indicators into official government reporting systems. Stakeholders also agreed on structured data access roles within the PlantwisePlus Online Management System (POMS).

Signs of deeper national ownership continued to emerge. The Department of Statistics began developing a national agricultural data tool modelled after the plant clinic prescription form. As decentralization reforms advance, early discussions have also explored how plant clinic responsibilities can be formalized within job descriptions and performance indicators across relevant institutions.

A major institutional milestone was achieved through the integration of PlantwisePlus modules into the curriculum of all 47 ITABs. Working with the Ministry of Education through BECEPFTFP, the project validated and distributed seven training guides and manuals. In the 2025/2026 academic year, 1,316 second-year students (48% women) began training under the revised curriculum. This initiative ensures a long-term pipeline of extension personnel skilled in diagnostics and evidence-based advisory practices.

Nationwide advisory strengthening

Expanding coverage, building capacity, amplifying reach

Capacity building

449
new plant doctors trained in 2025

84
national trainers

1,316
ITAB students enrolled under revised plant doctor curriculum (48% female)

Plant clinics coverage

221 functional plant clinics nationwide

95 new clinics established in 2025

5 permanent clinics embedded within DPV structures

Outcome

80,000
farmers reached through plant clinics in 2025

60% women

50% youth

60,000
farmers reached in 2025 via plant health rallies

51%+ women

Strengthening gender-responsive agricultural advisory services

In 2025, the project made significant progress in strengthening the gender responsiveness of agricultural advisory services. New analytical work and targeted capacity development helped identify structural barriers affecting women's access to extension. They also equipped national actors with tools to address these barriers.

A comprehensive Gender and Rural Advisory Services (GRAS) review synthesized national and regional evidence on the constraints that limit women's participation in agricultural advisory systems. The review highlighted disparities in land access, education levels, technology use, and decision-making power. It recommended moving beyond participation targets and embedding gender-responsive practices within institutional processes. The review also underscored the need for stronger coordination through a formalized GRAS working structure.

A gender-focused Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) assessment among plant doctors complemented the GRAS analysis. The assessment identified knowledge gaps and behavioural factors that influence equitable advisory delivery. These findings informed the development of a trainer's manual on gender integration within PlantwisePlus Burundi. The manual provides practical guidance for incorporating gender considerations into diagnostics, communication and advisory recommendations.

Building on this evidence base, the project trained 12 national trainers (seven women) to integrate gender-responsive approaches into plant doctor training and field-level advisory services. This training group now plays a central role in embedding gender-inclusive practice within the extension system.

At community level, the project supported structured gender dialogues across 14 farmer cooperatives. These dialogues reached 583 participants, including 292 women and 171 youth under 35. Facilitators used a farmer discussion booklet developed by the project to guide conversations on gender roles, decision-making, and participation in plant health activities. The sessions encouraged collective reflection on practical steps to enhance equitable engagement in crop protection and advisory services.

Together, these interventions strengthened the foundations for more inclusive plant health services. They raised awareness, equipped national trainers with gender-responsive tools, and fostered community-level dialogue on equitable participation.

Complementary extension approaches

Complementary extension approaches expanded significantly in 2025, combining direct farmer engagement with broad-reach communication channels. These approaches strengthened the visibility and accessibility of plant health information, particularly for women and farmers in remote areas.

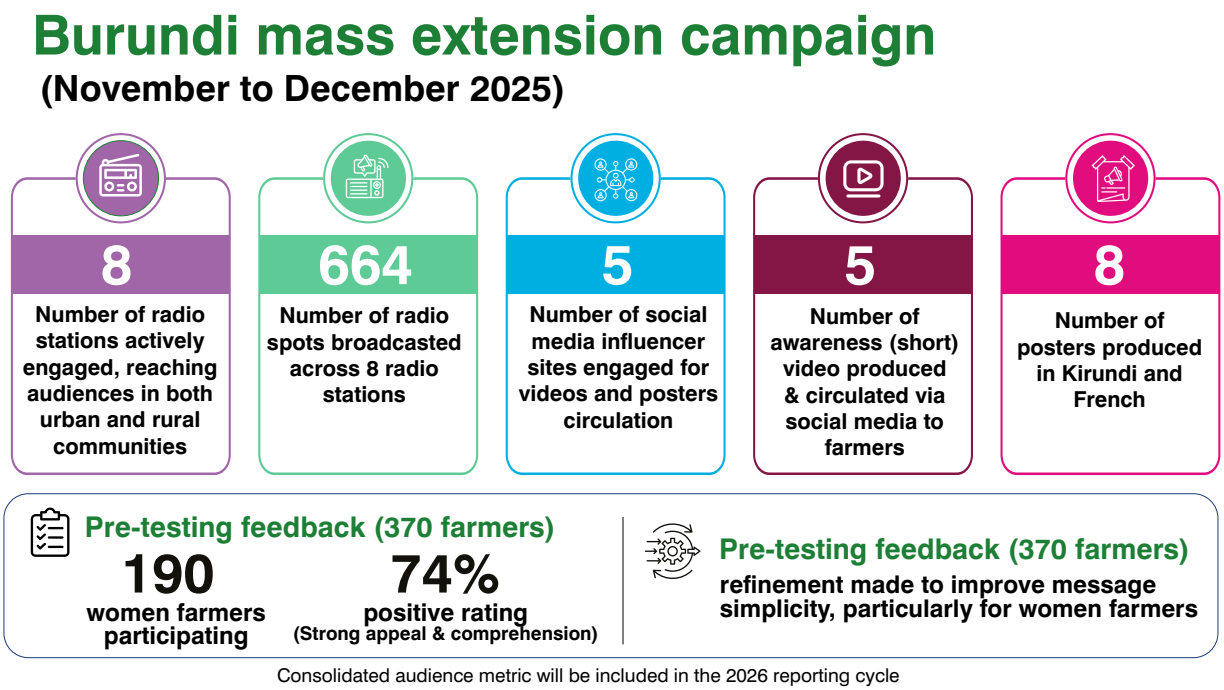
Plant health rallies (PHRs) reached an estimated 60,000 farmers, more than half of them women. The rallies provided practical demonstrations and advisory guidance on priority pests and crop protection practices. Topics were selected through consultations with national partners and informed by emerging trends in plant clinic data. This ensured that messages responded to the most pressing plant health challenges.

The national Mass Extension Campaign (MEC), implemented under the *Umwimbu ku Bwacu* identity, further amplified outreach efforts. Conducted from November to December 2025, the campaign delivered targeted messages on pests such as mango mealybug (MMB), papaya mealybug (PMB) and tomato leafminer. Radio and digital platforms are actively identifying insights into message recall and overall campaign effectiveness, the consolidated metrics will be reported in 2026.

Radio messages were pre-tested with 370 farmers (190 women) to assess clarity and relevance. Seventy-four percent of respondents rated the messages positively and offered feedback that guided refinements to improve simplicity and ensure appeal, particularly for women farmers. The national rollout included 664 radio spots across eight stations, five influencer-led social media campaigns, five short videos and eight posters in Kirundi and French.

Digital advisory tools were also introduced to complement in-person services. Sixteen national trainers (31% women) promoted the PlantwisePlus Factsheets App and the Crop Sprayer App to 70 plant doctors during cluster meetings. Each plant doctor received a unique tracking link to monitor farmer engagement. This pilot aimed to reach approximately 5,000 farmers. Initial monitoring revealed key insights related to digital literacy constraints, reporting challenges, and opportunities to improve usability.

Finally, a One Health feasibility study examined opportunities to integrate plant, environmental, and human health considerations within advisory and regulatory systems. The study identified gaps in cross-ministerial coordination and highlighted the continued reliance on chemical pesticides due to limited access to integrated alternatives. These findings reinforced the importance of advisory services as an entry point for environmental resilience and public health safeguards.



Consolidated audience metric will be included in the 2026 reporting cycle

Outcome 2: Reduced risk from crop protection practices

Increased awareness of pesticide risks and safer alternatives

In 2025, the project made substantial progress in strengthening awareness of pesticide risks and promoting safer crop protection practices. Much of this work was guided by the national pesticide KAP assessment initiated in late 2024. The assessment provided detailed insights into pesticide use behaviours, regulatory gaps, and stakeholder perceptions across eight provinces.

A national validation workshop, convened with ABREVPA, ISABU, University of Burundi and CAB, confirmed that the KAP findings accurately reflected prevailing conditions. The workshop identified priority actions, including strengthened regulatory oversight, improved agro-dealer training, streamlined biopesticide review processes and increased farmer sensitization. Because some findings were sensitive, particularly those related to pesticide misuse, the report is undergoing further review with ABREVPA and is expected to be finalized in 2026.

Building on this evidence, the project developed a targeted Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy under the *Umwimbu ku Bwacu identity.* While complementary to the MEC, the SBCC initiative focused specifically on behaviours related to pesticide selection, safe handling, regulatory compliance and the adoption of lower-risk alternatives. Additional communication materials were produced, including radio spots, programmes, dramas, posters and short videos. Agro-dealers and lead farmers were intentionally engaged as community champions to reinforce responsible pesticide use at local level.

Biological control solutions for priority pests

Biological control initiatives advanced significantly in 2025, particularly for MMB (*Rastrococcus invadens*). Evidence showed substantial economic losses associated with MMB, including production losses of 18–31%, yield declines of 23–49%, and an 8% reduction in mango sales. Because chemical control has limited effectiveness, the project supported the establishment of a dedicated parasitoid rearing facility at ISABU. The facility enables mass production of *Gyranusoidea tebygi* and *Anagyrus mangicola*. Furthermore, the project facilitated two ISABU technicians to receive specialized training in parasitoid rearing and quality management in Kenya.

Parasitoids are beneficial insects whose immature stages develop inside or on a pest insect, eventually killing it. This makes them highly effective agents for classical biological control.

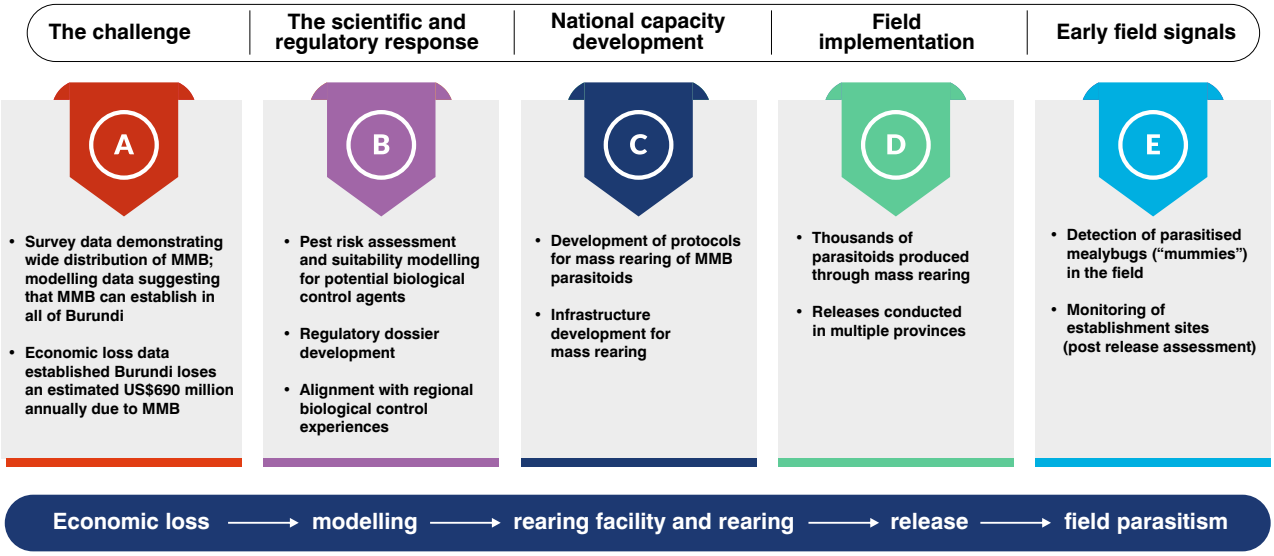
Rearing efforts enabled field releases at selected sites in Bujumbura, Burunga and Butanyerera. Approximately 1,000 adult parasitoids and 400 parasitized hosts were released following established biological control protocols. Early monitoring conducted four months later recorded parasitized MMBs and adult parasitoids in the field—an encouraging sign of establishment.

For PMB (*Paracoccus marginatus*), a rapid assessment covering 146 farms across four provinces confirmed widespread infestation, particularly in warm lowland and midland agro-ecological zones. The pest was also observed on several host crops, including cassava, guava, avocado, mango, citrus, tomato and chilli. These findings informed preparation and submission of a regulatory dossier requesting approval to import *Acerophagus papayae* for classical biological control.

To expand access to safer crop protection options, the project supported ABREVPA in prioritizing 16 biopesticide products for national evaluation beginning in 2026. Prioritization focused on pest–crop combinations associated with heavy pesticide use. These included fall armyworm on maize, aphids and whiteflies on beans, false codling moth on avocado, and anthracnose and stink bug on coffee. Many products are already registered in other East African Community (EAC) countries, offering opportunities to streamline regulatory processes. Efficacy trials will be jointly implemented by ABREVPA and ISABU with technical support from CABI.

Managing mango mealybug through classical biological control

From economic threat to science-based response



Income-generating opportunities for youth and women

The project advanced efforts to link safer crop protection practices with local economic opportunities for youth and women. This work was guided by a national scoping study that identified potential agri-service business models aligned with farmer demand. Instead of applying a standardised training package, the project adopted a demand-responsive approach. This allowed farmer cooperatives to identify priority service gaps within their communities.

Based on these insights, a modular agri-service training framework was developed. The framework combines technical modules, such as integrated pest management, with entrepreneurship training and peer mentoring components. It is designed to equip participants with both the technical and business skills needed to deliver locally relevant services.

In 2025, 41 youth (20 of them women) were trained under this approach. Although this represents an initial pilot phase, the results demonstrate clear potential for viable agri-service models linked to demonstrated farmer demand. Expansion in 2026 will prioritize strengthening mentorship structures and developing a ToT model to support further growth of local agri-service providers.

Developing agri-service models led by women and youth

From evidence to enterprise

Outcome 3: Improved phytosanitary services

Strengthened phytosanitary measures and diagnostic capacity

In 2025, significant progress was made in strengthening Burundi's national phytosanitary system. This progress was achieved through improved diagnostic capacity, regulatory reinforcement, and better coordination among key institutions. A national laboratory assessment evaluated diagnostic capacity across seven laboratories. These included ISABU, DPV, ONCCS, University of Ngozi, and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). Although essential diagnostic equipment is available in the country, the assessment found that resources are fragmented across institutions. It also revealed that these resources are often underutilized due to coordination and human resource constraints. These findings informed recommendations to establish a collaborative national laboratory network, improve equipment utilization, and reinforce diagnostic coordination.

Institutional credibility was further strengthened through support to renew DPV's ISO/IEC 17020:2012 accreditation under the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS). This standard sets the requirements for competence and impartiality of inspection bodies responsible for phytosanitary inspections, certification, and regulatory oversight. Maintaining accreditation reinforces confidence among trading partners and supports compliance with international plant protection requirements.

Two national phytosanitary protocols were developed for priority quarantine pests: Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) and Soft Rot Pectobacteriaceae (SRP). PCN is a microscopic roundworm that attacks potato roots and reduces tuber yields, while SRP refers to bacteria that cause soft rot, leading to the breakdown and decay of potato tissues. Together, these pests pose serious threats to potato production and trade.

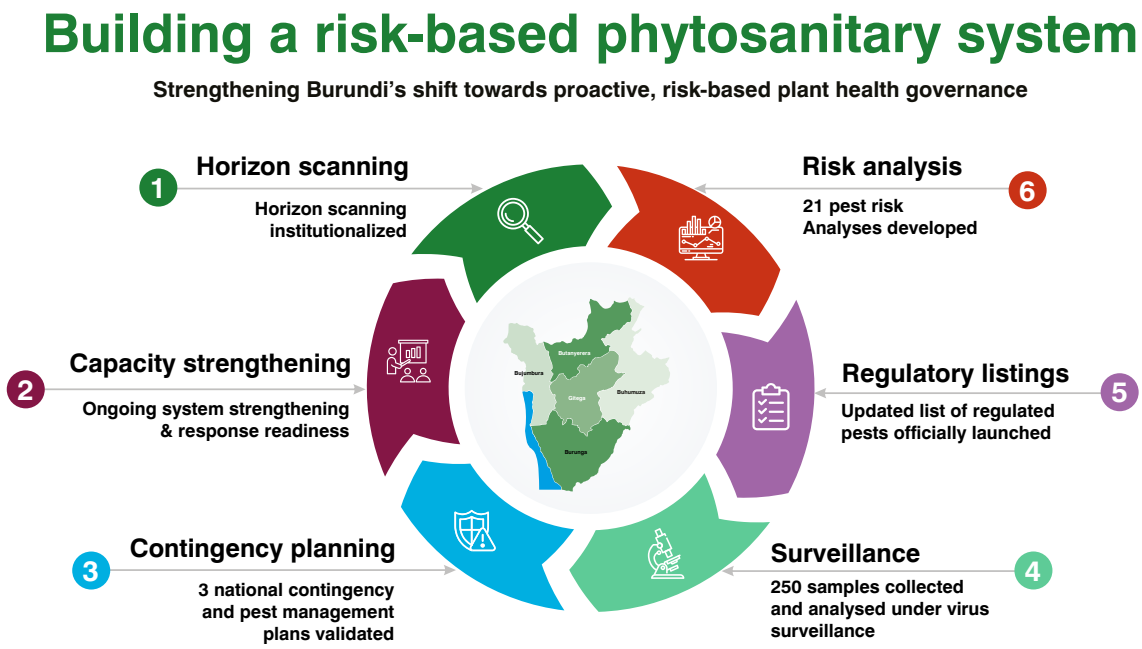
A total of 30 staff from DPV, ISABU and ONCCS (40% female) were trained to support implementation of these protocols. Further capacity was built through a joint technical mission with experts from CABI and KEPHIS. This mission provided hands-on training in field inspection, diagnostic procedures and phytosanitary risk management. The training focused on key potato quarantine pests, including PCN, SRP and the *Ralstonia solanacearum* species complex. The latter is a bacterial group responsible for wilt diseases in potatoes and other solanaceous crops.

Institutionalizing pest prioritization processes

Phytosanitary risk prioritization advanced significantly in 2025. This progress built on horizon scanning work initiated in 2023 and 2024. Using the CABI Horizon Scanning Tool, national experts identified more than 1,900 potential pest threats that had not previously been recorded in Burundi. Through successive filtering and expert review, species affecting key national crops and value chains were prioritized for further analysis and regulatory consideration.

Based on this prioritization, 21 PRAs were completed with contributions from DPV, ISABU, ONCCS and regional experts, including technical input from KEPHIS. A total of 21 national staff (five women) were trained in PRA methodology. These processes culminated in the publication of Burundi's updated List of Regulated Pests, replacing the previous list from 2006. The new list aligns with International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) guidelines and strengthens the country's legal and technical basis for preventing the introduction and spread of harmful plant pests.

Surveillance for viruses affecting solanaceous crops also progressed. Solanaceous crops are members of the tomato–potato family and include staples such as potatoes, tomatoes, peppers and eggplants, which are widely grown and consumed in Burundi. Approximately 250 samples were collected from key production areas and subjected to metagenomic sequencing to detect known and previously unreported viruses. The results, expected in 2026, will strengthen the national evidence base for risk assessment, advisory messages and surveillance priorities. They may also inform precautionary guidance for seed sourcing and on-farm monitoring within seed systems.



Priority pest prevention and management plans

Informed by risk profiling and regional pest-movement trends, the project supported the development of contingency and pest management plans for priority quarantine threats. A national contingency plan for *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cubense* Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4) was completed in recognition of its high transboundary risk. Foc TR4 is a soil-borne fungus that causes Fusarium wilt in bananas, leading to plant death and severe yield losses. The pathogen can persist in soil for decades, making it extremely difficult to manage. Because banana is essential to Burundi's food security, preparedness for Foc TR4 remains especially critical.

In parallel, a National Generic Contingency Plan was developed to guide national action on emerging quarantine pests. It provides an overarching framework for prevention, surveillance, rapid response and emergency management. This framework establishes clear procedures to guide national action during pest outbreaks.

Given the regional spread and economic impact of MMB, the project also supported Burundi to domesticate the EAC regional management plan for the pest. Aligning national actions with regional surveillance and response mechanisms enhances preparedness and promotes coordinated management across borders.

Together, these plans shift the system from a reactive posture to a structured, risk-based approach. They also bring national preparedness in line with international phytosanitary standards.

Climate change adaptation and resilience

In 2025, the project undertook analytical work to assess Burundi's national priorities in agricultural adaptation. It also evaluated progress in building climate resilience within smallholder farming systems. This effort centred on an extended baseline study, *Accelerating Smallholder Agriculture Adaptation in Burundi*, which examines how national policies on climate adaptation are implemented in practice. The analysis aligns with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) frameworks under the UNFCCC and is scheduled for validation with national stakeholders in 2026.

The assessment confirms that Burundi has a strong policy foundation for agricultural adaptation. National frameworks consistently prioritize climate-smart agriculture, soil and water conservation, agroforestry, irrigation, resilient seed systems and strengthened extension services. However, implementation remains uneven and largely project-driven. Uptake of adaptation practices tends to be concentrated in areas with stronger institutional support. Other regions face constraints related to infrastructure, extension capacity and access to climate information.

The findings also highlight persistent financing and institutional gaps that limit national-scale implementation. Although promising initiatives are underway, substantial investment is still required, both in physical interventions and in institutional systems, to translate national policy commitments into widespread resilience. The analysis emphasizes the critical role of plant health systems within this broader resilience agenda, noting that pest pressures are intensifying under changing climatic conditions.

Beyond its analytical value, the report is designed as a practical, policy-oriented evidence base to support national dialogue and guide investment decisions. It also demonstrates the cross-cutting nature of climate change resilience within PlantwisePlus, given its influence on advisory systems, crop protection, surveillance processes and institutional strengthening. Planned validation and policy engagement activities in 2026 will further support uptake and ensure alignment with national priorities.

Strengthening national scientific capacity through postgraduate training

Strengthening national scientific capacity in plant health forms another important cross-cutting component of the project. During project development, national partners highlighted the limited availability of specialized expertise in areas such as pest diagnostics, pest risk assessment, biological control and phytosanitary decision-making. Addressing this gap is essential for sustaining plant health systems beyond the lifespan of externally funded initiatives.

To respond to this need, the project established postgraduate training partnerships with the University of Nairobi and the University of Burundi. These partnerships enable project activities to generate new scientific evidence while simultaneously strengthening national technical knowledge and institutional capacity.

By the end of 2025, sixteen postgraduate students, fifteen pursuing MSc degrees and one pursuing a PhD, were affiliated with project-supported research streams. One MSc student and one PhD candidate, both women, are enrolled at the University of Nairobi. Fourteen MSc students, including four women, are enrolled at the University of Burundi.

The research topics address priority areas aligned with project objectives. These include pest surveillance, pest risk assessment, biological control, pesticide risk reduction and the effectiveness of advisory services. In addition to generating new datasets and scientific outputs, the studies will provide analytical insights that inform ongoing project activities and strengthen the national evidence base for plant health management.

Importantly, all participating students are staff members of national partner institutions – ISABU (4), DPV (3), ABREVPA (3), ONCCS (3) and Bureau Burundais de Normalisation et Contrôle de la Qualité (3). This ensures that the expertise developed through postgraduate training remains embedded within the national plant health system. By strengthening the technical capacity of existing institutions, rather than creating parallel structures, the project supports long-term national ownership.

Building on these achievements, the next section analyses how 2025 activities contributed to system strengthening and deeper institutionalization.

2025 Progress Analysis

Overall, investments made in 2025 strengthened advisory services. They also increased awareness of pesticide risks and safer alternatives, and improved phytosanitary capacity for earlier detection and coordinated response. Together, these shifts signal a move from initial system expansion toward deeper institutionalization.

This section assesses progress across three connected areas. It first examines how activities have transitioned from expansion to institutional embedding. It then reviews emerging signs of national ownership, stronger alignment and improved coordination among key plant health actors. Finally, it highlights the main constraints encountered during implementation and identifies priority areas for consolidation in 2026.

Transition from expansion toward institutionalization

In 2025, the project shifted from its initial rollout phase toward deeper institutional embedding and quality assurance. Although some geographic expansion continued, the emphasis moved to strengthening the quality of advisory services and establishing the foundational systems required for newer workstreams. This shift also included promoting national ownership and ensuring that project-supported activities increasingly aligned with national agricultural development plans.

Advisory services: From expansion to quality and institutionalization

Nationwide plant clinic coverage marked the culmination of several years of progressive system development. While further expansion will continue where needed, the strategic focus in 2025 increasingly shifted toward improving service quality. It also moved toward strengthening monitoring mechanisms and aligning advisory functions more closely with institutional mandates.

Institutional capacity has strengthened alongside this transition. The growing pool of MINEAGRIE trainers and enhanced collaboration with IFDC programmes demonstrate increasing national ownership of advisory services. Early engagement with national statistical systems further indicates a gradual shift toward embedding plant clinic data within government structures.

Complementary extension approaches reinforced this transition. MECs, PHRs and strengthened advisory messaging helped embed plant health advisory within a more coordinated national extension ecosystem.

Safer crop protection: Building evidence-based pathways

Progress under Outcome 2 showed a clear shift from broad awareness-raising toward more structured, evidence-based approaches. Insights from the pesticide KAP assessment guided regulatory prioritization and informed the design of behaviour-change interventions. Together, these steps laid the foundations for a more systematic and sustainable approach to pesticide risk reduction.

Biological control strengthening followed a similar trajectory. The preparation of regulatory dossiers and the prioritization of candidate biopesticide products for evaluation demonstrated a shift toward structured regulatory pathways. These pathways support the safe introduction and scaling of lower-risk pest management solutions.

Phytosanitary systems: Embedding risk-based processes

Phytosanitary improvements also began moving from isolated technical activities toward more institutionalized, risk-based processes. Work initiated in 2025 laid the groundwork for integrating horizon scanning, PRA, contingency planning and updates to the national list of regulated pests into routine national workflows. These processes are gradually shifting away from stand-alone interventions toward more institutionalized practice.

Progress was also made in strengthening the use of plant clinic data within surveillance systems. Structured pest-alert communication between plant doctors and provincial DPV offices is being developed to support a more responsive and integrated surveillance mechanism.

Institutionalization, ownership, and system alignment

Building on the transitions described in the previous section, progress in 2025 also saw stronger national ownership of project components. This was reflected in the strengthened roles of ABREVPA and DPV and in improved coordination among key institutions such as ISABU, ONCCS and universities. These developments helped align advisory, regulatory and research functions within a more coherent national plant health system.

Institutionalization of plant doctor training within the ITABs system also advanced in 2025. This progress created new opportunities to strengthen linkages between MINEAGRIE partner institutions and relevant Ministry of Education bodies. Across these institutional strengthening efforts, key capacities, processes and workflows are now in place. However, sustained quality assurance and closer alignment with government structures and operational frameworks will be essential in 2026.

Constraints and priorities for 2026

Despite strong progress in 2025, several contextual factors influenced implementation. Administrative reform reshaped extension structures and required adjustments in how plant clinic services are anchored within the national system. This transition has created uncertainty around roles, responsibilities and coordination at subnational level. It may also affect continuity of plant clinic operations and has slowed efforts to integrate plant clinic indicators into official reporting frameworks.

The uptake of digital advisory tools progressed more slowly than anticipated. Connectivity challenges, reporting requirements, and the time users need to adapt to new platforms all contributed to limited progress. Continued engagement and a review of tool functionality will be necessary in 2026.

Institutional evolution within the plant protection system also influenced implementation. ABREVPA continues to build its role as the national regulator for plant protection products, while DPV remains responsible for surveillance and phytosanitary functions. This evolving interpretation of mandates presents a coordination risk. The project will therefore continue to support both institutions in complementary ways, strengthening surveillance while advancing regulatory processes for lower-risk solutions.

Regulatory approval processes, particularly for biological control, require careful review in line with international standards. These reviews may introduce delays and affect the pace at which certain interventions can scale. The project will continue to comply with national regulatory decisions to ensure safety and long-term sustainability.

Taken together, these constraints highlight the complexity of institutional and regulatory strengthening. The priority for 2026 will therefore be consolidation, embedding advisory services within national systems, completing regulatory processes, strengthening monitoring and attribution, and reinforcing institutional coordination.

Emerging Signs of Sustainability

From the outset, the project was designed to strengthen Burundi's national plant health system. It did so by embedding advisory, regulatory and phytosanitary functions within existing institutions rather than creating parallel structures. Sustainability has therefore been pursued through four complementary strategies. These include working through national systems, building national technical capacity, strengthening regulatory and risk-management processes, and promoting structured advisory and communication approaches that support long-term behavioural change. Strategic oversight by a national steering committee, comprising MINEAGRIE, DPV, ISABU, ABREVPA and ONCCS, has ensured alignment with national priorities and supported coordinated implementation.

Developments in 2025 show that these systems-level foundations are taking root. Nationwide plant clinic coverage is supported by a growing cadre of national trainers who increasingly lead capacity development and service quality efforts. Partnerships with other extension programmes signal stronger alignment within the wider advisory ecosystem. Plant clinic data is also gaining recognition as a valuable resource for agricultural planning, surveillance and regulatory decision-making.

Early behavioural change is visible among extension personnel, who are applying more structured and inclusive diagnostic and advisory approaches. Collaboration among advisory, regulatory and research institutions continues to deepen, creating stronger linkages across the plant health system. As Burundi adjusts its extension structures, plant clinics are being aligned with evolving coordination mechanisms. These developments suggest that advisory services are transitioning toward routine national practice.

Progress in biological control further demonstrates emerging sustainability. The establishment of a rearing facility at ISABU, together with trained national personnel, provides a foundation for continued development and deployment of lower-risk pest management solutions. These investments position Burundi to scale biological control in a more sustainable and nationally led manner. Strengthened regulatory processes and validated national protocols also reinforce the long-term viability of these approaches.

Phytosanitary functions are also becoming more institutionalized. Horizon scanning, PRA and contingency planning are increasingly part of routine DPV operations. The updated List of Regulated Pests and improved diagnostic capacity contribute to a more responsive national system capable of preventing and managing plant health threats.

Academic capacity building provides an additional sustainability pathway. Postgraduate research partnerships with regional and national universities are expanding Burundi's pool of specialized expertise. Because these students are embedded within national institutions, their skills will remain within the system, reducing long-term reliance on external support.

Taken together, these developments demonstrate that the building blocks of a robust and sustainable plant health system are now in place. They provide a strong foundation for supporting agricultural productivity, resilience and food security in the years ahead.

Delivery Against Indicators

This section reviews progress against the project's logical framework and donor-level indicators. It assesses annual achievements for 2025, examines performance relative to targets and highlights trends that will guide consolidation efforts in 2026.

Results against project indicators

Results for 2025 (Annex 2) demonstrate strong performance across most output and outcome indicators. Advisory outreach, training, regulatory strengthening and phytosanitary capacity development advanced at a pace that met or exceeded annual targets. Indicators at outcome and impact levels are progressing as expected. This reflects the typical sequencing in which foundational capacities mature before measurable behaviour change and economic benefits become fully visible.

Outcome 1: Improved access to farmer agricultural advisory services

Performance under Outcome 1 shows substantial gains in both the scale and quality of advisory services. Indicators related to farmer outreach, plant doctor training and women's access surpassed planned targets. Nationwide plant clinic coverage is now firmly established, highlighting strong institutional acceptance of advisory services.

Indicators measuring farmer knowledge and practice change show positive trends. These trends are consistent with expanded advisory coverage and complementary extension approaches. As expected, the livelihood-related indicator remains slightly below the annual target, since such outcomes typically materialize later as farmers translate improved knowledge and practice into economic gains. The yield-related indicator is on track, reflecting early improvements in crop protection practices. In 2026, greater emphasis will be placed on validating adoption and documenting farmer-level impact.

Outcome 2: Reduced risk from crop protection practices

Outcome 2 results reflect important advances along the pathway from improved awareness of crop protection risks to the adoption of safer practices. Foundational elements were established during the reporting period. These include development of an evidence-based SBCC strategy, strengthened regulatory processes, and biological control infrastructure.

Biological control indicators show strong performance. The establishment of a parasitoid rearing facility, development of national technical capacity and early field releases are major milestones toward sustainable pest management options. Youth-focused agri-service training initiatives also contributed to expanding local capacity to deliver safer crop protection services.

Indicators that depend on regulatory approvals, validation of alternatives and widespread adoption remain in progressive stages. These processes require careful review, time for scale-up and behaviour change across multiple stakeholders. In 2026, emphasis will shift toward strengthening monitoring systems, accelerating evidence of adoption and reinforcing pathways for lower-risk crop protection solutions.

Outcome 3: Improved phytosanitary services

Outcome 3 indicators demonstrate strong progress in institutional and technical strengthening. The number of PRAs completed exceeded annual targets, and training in phytosanitary protocols surpassed expectations. Horizon scanning, the updated List of Regulated Pests and validated contingency plans have all contributed to more robust, risk-based plant health governance.

While the development of guidelines, tools and training advanced significantly in 2025, the next phase will focus on consistent operationalization. The priority will be ensuring that surveillance systems, diagnostic procedures and emergency response mechanisms are systematically applied within national institutions.

Alignment with donor-specific indicators

The project contributed significantly to DGIS FNS indicators. Performance across B-, C-, D- and E-level indicators shows strong alignment with broader development outcomes (Annex 3). These outcomes relate to productivity, resilience, inclusion, sustainable land use and institutional strengthening.

B-Indicators: Small-scale food producers reached and benefitting

Results demonstrate improvements in agricultural performance, resilience and inclusion among small-scale farmers reached by the project. All indicators exceeded their annual targets, reflecting the scale and effectiveness of combined advisory services, communication activities and improved crop protection interventions.

C-Indicator: Land under improved agro-ecological practices

Estimated land area reached exceeded the 2025 target of 20,000 hectares. Based on 79,115 plant clinic consultations and PlantwisePlus global programme's methodology, approximately 21,360 hectares were influenced by improved crop protection practices. Additional interventions, such as biological control, are expected to expand this coverage further in subsequent years.

D-Indicators: Enabling environment for small-scale producers

At the farm level, the project contributed to improved adoption of sustainable technologies and practices. At the institutional level, multiple national bodies, including MINEAGRIE, DPV, ABREVPA, ISABU, ONCCS, BECEPFTFP and the University of Burundi, benefited from capacity development and technical collaboration. These gains enhance the enabling environment for evidence-based plant health management and service delivery.

E-indicator: Policy and institutional reform

The project contributed to policy and regulatory improvements that will benefit tens of thousands of small-scale producers. Key achievements include the development of PRAs, publication of the updated List of Regulated Pests, strengthened phytosanitary protocols and validated contingency and pest management plans. Together, these outputs reinforce national phytosanitary governance and improve readiness for emerging threats.

The project also strengthened the evidence base for climate resilience through the development of a baseline assessment aligned with Burundi's NAP and NDC processes. This assessment will inform future policy dialogue and planning.

The evidence generated through indicator tracking is complemented by the project's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning activities, which provide the data foundation for ongoing project adaptation.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) activities in 2025 focused on strengthening data quality, improving the use of evidence for decision-making and supporting adaptive management across all project outcomes. Routine reporting systems, particularly POMS, plant doctor reporting channels and partner reporting platforms, provided regular visibility on advisory reach, diagnoses, prescriptions and training outputs. These systems confirmed implementation progress and informed adjustments to project activities.

Informing project progress and adaptations

Monitoring systems for plant clinic operations were strengthened through WhatsApp-based reporting and cluster review meetings. These mechanisms improved the timeliness and completeness of field-level data on farmer consultations, pest diagnoses and advisory recommendations. Although they significantly enhanced monitoring of advisory services, formal integration of plant clinic data within national reporting systems remains a priority for 2026.

Integration of PlantwisePlus modules into agricultural vocational training created new opportunities for monitoring learning outcomes. Baseline surveys and knowledge assessments were initiated for students, teachers and school administrators before the start of the 2025–2026 academic year. These assessments will allow comparison with the previous curriculum and track improvements in plant protection knowledge and skills. Post-course assessments in 2026 will provide additional evidence of learning outcomes.

Under Outcome 2, monitoring supported the development of evidence to guide behavioural change and promote lower-risk crop protection practices. The pesticide KAP assessment provided a comprehensive picture of pesticide use behaviour, regulatory gaps and stakeholder perceptions. Its findings now guide monitoring of the behaviour-change communication implemented under the *Umwimbu ku Bwacu* campaign. Monitoring of biological control activities, biopesticide trials and communication outreach will continue into 2026 to assess the effectiveness of pathways promoting safer practices.

Under Outcome 3, monitoring focused on how strengthened phytosanitary systems contribute to improved pest detection, reporting and response capacity. Plant clinic prescription records, laboratory confirmations and field surveillance observations provided complementary data streams supporting identification of emerging pest issues. Discussions with DPV are ongoing to reinforce connections between plant clinic data and national surveillance mechanisms, including the development of structured pest-alert processes at provincial level. Outputs such as horizon-scanning analyses, PRAs and the updated List of Regulated Pests contribute to a growing evidence base for regulatory decisions, surveillance priorities and contingency planning.

Throughout 2025, targeted studies, surveys and datasets strengthened the evidence base required for adaptive project management. Key insights included:

a. findings from the pesticide KAP survey, which highlighted the importance of addressing both knowledge gaps and constraints such as access to alternatives and advisory support;

b. baseline pest distribution data generated through the PMB field assessment;

c. insights from gender analysis that informed new gender-responsive training materials and dialogue tools;

d. lessons from communication pre-testing, which underscored the need to tailor messages to different audiences, particularly women;

e. insights from the digital advisory pilot on connectivity, reporting requirements and user adaptation;

f. and phytosanitary evidence from surveillance and horizon scanning that informed risk prioritization, regulatory discussions and biological control planning.

Beyond operational monitoring, CABI staff contributed to peer-reviewed research documenting experiences from Burundi. Three peer-reviewed publications were produced in 2025:

- **Musyoka, P.M., Ochilo, W.N., Ntirampeba, L. et al. (2025)**. *Can men unburden women from unpaid care work? Evidence from Burundi*. CABI Agriculture and Bioscience. https://doi.org/10.1079/ab.2025.0008
- **Ayuya, O.I. et al. (2025)**. Bridging the gap in plant health systems: The role of gender-transformational advisory models in enhancing women's empowerment in agriculture. CABI Agriculture and Bioscience. https://doi.org/10.1079/ab.2025.0071
- **Mulema, J. et al. (2025)**. Rapid risk assessment to prioritise potentially high-risk non-native plant pests to protect agriculture, forestry, safeguard biodiversity and facilitate trade in Burundi. Frontiers in Agronomy. https://doi.org/10.3389/fagro.2025.1604493

To further consolidate emerging research findings, preparations began for a Special Journal Issue. This Journal Issue will highlight evidence and lessons from the Plantwise and PlantwisePlus Burundi projects. Together, these outputs ensure that implementation experience contributes to national learning and global plant health knowledge.

Priorities for 2026

MEL efforts in 2026 will focus on consolidating the evidence base required to demonstrate project outcomes, strengthen attribution and inform future plant health programming. Priority areas include farmer-level outcomes, sustainability indicators and the effectiveness of advisory, regulatory and phytosanitary interventions.

Key analytical studies planned for 2026 include:

- a financing landscape review to identify opportunities for embedding plant clinic services within national systems and development programmes;
- an operational review of permanent plant clinics to assess farmer reach and complementarity with partner programmes;
- outcome and impact assessments, including cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses for advisory services and lower-risk crop protection practices;
- evaluation of the Year-2 ITABs plant health curriculum, and baseline and formative review of the Year-3 curriculum;
- evidence briefs on digital advisory effectiveness covering reach, cost-effectiveness and inclusivity;
- geo-referenced pest incidence mapping for MMB, PMB and *Citrus orthezia*;
- studies on pest–host interactions and damage thresholds to strengthen advisory recommendations;
- institutional pest data audit to assess datasets across ISABU, DPV and MINEAGRIE;
- and a rapid post-campaign assessments of the MEC to evaluate message recall and knowledge change.

In addition, an independent project evaluation commissioned by EKN will assess effectiveness, impact and sustainability since August 2024. A separate Embassy-led assessment of exit strategies will review progress against exit-strategy indicators introduced following the 2025 top-up funding. Together, these MEL activities will generate a robust body of evidence documenting achievements, lessons learned and sustainability pathways for plant health system strengthening in Burundi.

Risk Management and Evolution of Risks

Risk management remained a central component of project implementation in 2025. Risks were monitored through routine project management processes, including monthly planning reviews, partner consultations and regular Project Board meetings. This approach enabled early identification of emerging challenges and the implementation of targeted mitigation measures. Although several contextual and institutional factors influenced delivery, none fundamentally altered project direction. Instead, they required adaptive coordination, planning adjustments and realiztic expectations regarding the pace of institutional reform and behavioural change. An updated project risk register is included in Annex 4.

Updated project risks

Uptake of digital advisory tools progressed more slowly than anticipated. Reporting requirements, connectivity constraints and the time needed for plant doctors and farmers to adapt to new digital platforms contributed to this challenge. In response, refresher training sessions were initiated and improvements to the digital tools were planned. Strengthened monitoring of digital engagement will remain a priority in 2026.

Several activities, particularly those related to biological control and phytosanitary strengthening, depend on regulatory processes that follow external administrative timelines. Delays in regulatory review, procurement procedures or approval of technical dossiers may affect the pace at which certain interventions can progress. To mitigate these risks, regulatory dossiers were submitted early and alignment with experiences from other EAC countries was pursued. Nonetheless, some approvals and operationalization steps remain outside the project's direct control.

The timing of biological control interventions poses an additional risk. If regulatory approval for the PMB biological control agent is granted in 2026, further months will be required for importation, colony establishment and initial releases. Without continued project resources during this period, implementation could be interrupted before the intervention reaches demonstrable scale. This underscores the importance of sustained support for biological control processes beyond the current project funding horizon.

Updated institutional risks

Ongoing adjustments within government structures influenced the pace at which plant clinic operations can be fully integrated into extension mandates and reporting frameworks. Although plant clinics continue to function effectively through the existing network of plant doctors, formal institutionalization, particularly the inclusion of plant clinic indicators within official reporting systems, has progressed more slowly than expected. Mitigation efforts have focused on sustained engagement with relevant authorities and alignment with evolving institutional structures, with further embedding actions planned for 2026.

A related risk concerns reliance on a small number of technically specialized personnel within national institutions. Despite an increase in trained staff, certain specialized functions, such as biological control regulation and advanced diagnostics, still depend on a limited pool of experts. Continued mentoring, structured knowledge transfer and expanded postgraduate training remain essential to reducing institutional vulnerability.

Future risk considerations

As current funding for PlantwisePlus concludes at the end of 2026, sustainability considerations are increasingly central to risk management. Without follow-up funding to support the project through 2030, there is a risk that recently initiated components, particularly those related to pesticide risk reduction, regulatory capacity and advanced phytosanitary workflows, may lose momentum. Full institutionalization of lower-risk crop protection pathways and strengthened phytosanitary services will require continued investment to realize their long-term potential.

To mitigate sustainability risks, the project will continue to prioritize institutional embedding, document evidence of outcomes to support future investment, and strengthen coordination among national stakeholders. Structured transition planning, together with sustained engagement with government and development partners, will remain critical throughout 2026.

Visibility

Project exposure and national recognition

In 2025, the visibility of PlantwisePlus Burundi expanded significantly through a range of high-profile events and communication products. These efforts strengthened the project's profile among national authorities, development partners and farming communities.

Institutional visibility was enhanced through the production of a project documentary (EN/FR). The film showcased farmer experiences, plant clinic operations and the contributions of national partners. It is now used to engage both national stakeholders and international audiences by demonstrating how plant health advice translates into improved crop management and reduced losses.

A major milestone was the official launch of PlantwisePlus Burundi. The event brought together national authorities, development partners, implementing institutions and farmer representatives. It marked the formal start of the implementation phase and provided a platform to communicate the project's strategic objectives and expected contributions to national plant health system strengthening. The launch reinforced partner ownership and positioned the project within broader agricultural resilience efforts.

Visibility also increased through the launch of Burundi's updated List of Regulated Pests. The public launch generated significant attention among regulatory authorities and policymakers and highlighted the project's central role in strengthening national phytosanitary governance.

The integration of PlantwisePlus plant doctor training modules into the ITABs curriculum further elevated the project's profile. Communication around this milestone underscored its importance for agricultural education and positioned plant health advisory as a recognized professional competency within national systems.

Visibility was also enhanced through participation in the EKN SAN CARAVAN. The platform convened senior government officials, development partners and implementing organizations to showcase progress across the Embassy's agriculture and nutrition portfolio. The CARAVAN included a reception hosted by the Ambassador of the Netherlands, Her Excellency Ambassador Lianne Houben, and featured field visits demonstrating integrated agricultural development efforts at community level. PlantwisePlus Burundi's contributions to strengthening advisory systems were highlighted alongside complementary initiatives, reinforcing its role in national agricultural transformation efforts.

Public communication and outreach

Public communication efforts in 2025 focused on increasing awareness of plant health issues and promoting sustainable crop protection practices among farming communities.

A central component of this work was the MEC, implemented under the national communication identity *Umwimbu ku Bwacu* ("Actions to save your crops"). As noted earlier, the MEC combined radio, social media and print materials to deliver targeted pest management messages.

Beyond the MEC, the project contributed to public visibility through the PlantwisePlus global communication platform. A series of blog articles documented field experiences, policy achievements and lessons learned from Burundi. These articles covered themes such as One Health challenges, pest management training in agricultural schools, gender-responsive advisory models, and broader lessons from agricultural development in Burundi. Together, these stories helped raise Burundi's profile within the global PlantwisePlus community and the wider agricultural development network.

Annex 1:
Progress Status of 2025 Activities

Annex 1: Progress Status of 2025 Activities

This annex provides a consolidated overview of progress against planned 2025 activities. The table below presents key activities alongside their implementation status as of December 2025.

Status classifications reflect year-end positioning and distinguish between activities delivered as planned, those progressing in line with sequencing into 2026, and those requiring continued follow-up.

Completed – Delivered in line with annual plan.	
Ongoing – Progressing in line with sequencing; to continue in 2026.	
Delayed – Behind planned timeline; mitigation measures in place.	

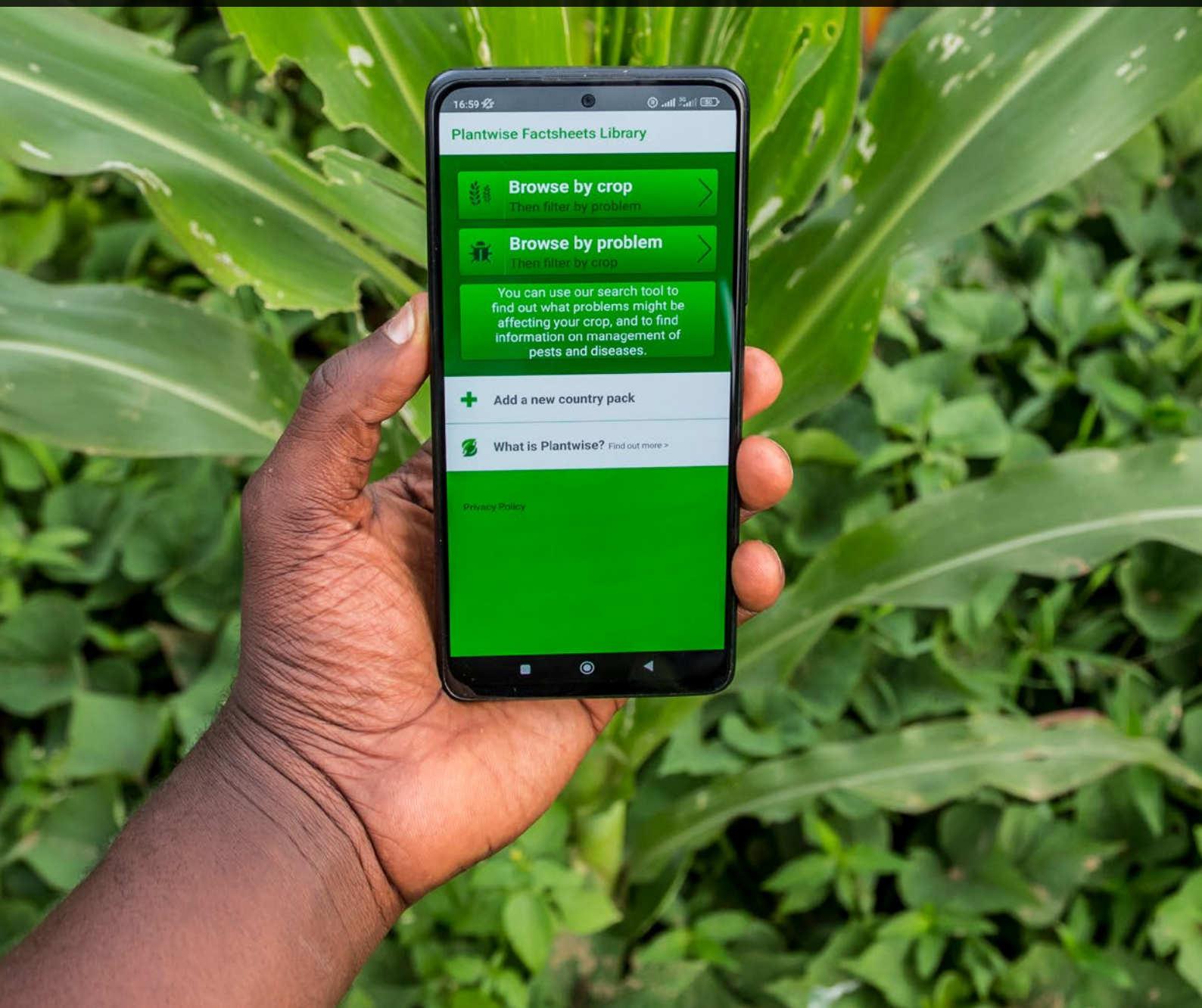
Activity	Status update
Outcome 1: Improved access to farmer agricultural advisory services	
Output 1.1: Consolidated plant clinics operations	
Activity 1.1.1 Integrate plant clinic operations into broader agricultural extension services	
Develop and share with MINEAGRIE a policy brief on the role of plant clinics in agricultural development.	
Hold at least two high-level meetings with government officials and key stakeholders to discuss funding mechanisms.	
Co-locate at least 5 plant clinics within existing extension service centers.	
Sign formal collaboration agreements with at least 5 farmer groups or cooperatives.	
Activity 1.1.2 Integrate plant doctor training into formal education curricula	
Finalize the revised plant doctor training curriculum.	
Select ITABs for piloting the curriculum	
Train teachers and instructors in the new curriculum and methodologies	
Pilot the revised curriculum in selected ITABs	
Gather feedback from students, teachers, and administrators (surveys, focus groups, evaluations)	
Produce an evaluation report summarizing feedback on curriculum and teaching methods	
Activity 1.1.3 Backstop plant clinic network operations	
Train a cohort of 150 people as plant doctors.	
Establish and operationalize an additional 50 plant clinics.	
Reach approximately 15,000 smallholder farmers through plant clinics.	
Roll out quality assurance mechanisms, including self-assessments and data validation.	
Output 1.2: Increased awareness of gender-sensitive agricultural advisory services achieved	
Activity 1.2.1 Carrying out comprehensive gender analysis	
Complete the GRAST assessment across the national extension system.	
Identify gaps in gender integration and create a prioritized list of gender-focused interventions.	
Design and launch the KAP survey targeting all plant doctors.	
Collect and analyze data to understand the current gender-sensitive service provision knowledge and practices of plant doctors.	
Activity 1.2.2 Enhance gender-inclusive engagement and knowledge exchange	
Map out existing farmer groups and cooperatives	
Engage these groups and establish formal affiliations with plant clinics	
Set up 10–15 networks with both women and men farmers.	
Organize the first round of peer-learning sessions and exchange events	

Output 1.3: Complementary extension approaches delivered	
Activity 1.3.1 Train relevant stakeholders on the principles and practices of mass extension campaign approaches	
Identify 5 - 7 key topics for extension campaigns, focusing on the most prevalent and strategic plant health challenges.	
Select the most effective mass communication channels (e.g., radio, community events) for reaching large numbers of farmers.	
Develop a strategic plan for conducting mass extension campaigns, including timelines, key messages, and delivery methods.	
Collaborate with experts to develop 5–7 tailored extension messages.	
Pilot the messages in select areas to gather feedback from farmers. Refine messages based on pilot feedback.	
Roll out full-scale mass extension campaigns, utilizing key channels (radio, etc.).	
Reach target audience of 200,000 smallholder farmers with critical plant health information	
Activity 1.3.2 Initiate and integrate additional innovative extension methodologies through a pilot program	
Identify high-need areas and target regions for plant health rallies, focusing on the topics identified above.	
Launch rallies in select regions. Thereafter, expand to more regions and increase the frequency.	
Reach 30,000 smallholder farmers through face-to-face interactions and demonstrations.	
Conduct a pilot project using digital tools to provide plant health information (SMS, apps) to a select group of farmers.	
Reach an additional 5,000 smallholder farmers through digital channels.	
Conduct a feasibility study on the integration of plant and animal health advisory services	
Outcome 2: Reduced risk from crop protection practices	
Output 2.1: Increased awareness of the risks associated with pesticide use and strategies to reduce risks to humans, animals and environment	
Activity 2.1.1 Identifying bottlenecks to lower-risk plant protection practices	
Continue full-scale implementation of surveys and interviews with relevant stakeholders in targeted regions. Collect and compile data from surveys and interviews.	
Perform analysis to identify gaps in knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) regarding plant protection and pest management.	
Conduct field assessments to document pesticide use, application methods, and pest management practices.	
Present findings to key stakeholders, with actionable recommendations to improve plant protection strategies and pest management	
Activity 2.1.2 Develop information materials on low-risk plant protection practices	
Identify agrodealers in key regions for capacity-building.	
Develop a training curriculum focusing on safer pest management products, appropriate pesticide usage, and the importance of stocking personal protective equipment (PPE).	
Organize and conduct training sessions for agrodealers	
Output 2.2: Biological control solutions for priority pests promoted in Burundi	
Activity 2.2.1 Facilitate access to classical (non-commercial) biological control agents (BCAs)	
Identify target pests in the selected crop or agricultural system for classical BCAs.	
Engage with regulatory bodies for registration and approval processes of identified BCAs.	
Begin rearing of selected BCAs, including training for local staff.	

Launch awareness campaigns on BCAs.	
Identify and select 2 augmentative biocontrol solutions for testing based on local pest challenges.	
Conduct field tests for the 2 selected augmentative biocontrol solutions.	
Output 2.3: Identified income generating opportunities for young people and women in low-risk crop protection service provision	
Activity 2.3.1 Identify viable low-risk crop protection services and enterprises based on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles	
Assess the market to identify specific crop protection services and enterprises with demand in the local agricultural context.	
Analyze barriers faced by young women and men in participating and benefiting from agribusiness.	
Engage farmers, agricultural cooperatives, and organizations to understand their preferences and needs for crop protection services.	
Provide relevant knowledge and skills to 50 agri-service providers through training sessions and workshops.	
Equip 10 women/youth-led associations/businesses with additional technical and business skills through targeted training and resources.	
Outcome 3: Improved phytosanitary services	
Output 3.1: Phytosanitary measures and protocols implemented	
Activity 3.1.1 Enhance capability of diagnostic laboratories to accurately identify regulated pests	
Conduct baseline assessments and identify gaps for diagnostic enhancement.	
Initiate training of lab staff on diagnostic techniques for at least 2 priority pests.	
Conduct a gap analysis of phytosanitary measures.	
Draft the first phytosanitary measure in collaboration with regulatory bodies.	
Finalize and implement the first phytosanitary measure.	
Train the first group of 15 staff on phytosanitary measures and protocols.	
Assess competency and provide refresher training as needed.	
Output 3.2: Pest prioritization processes embedded into the national system	
Activity 3.2.1 Establish a process for identifying and assessing the risk of new and emerging pests	
Identify and prioritize the most relevant tools for pest risk assessments.	
Train users on how to use the tools, starting with high-priority areas (targeting up to 2 tools in use by the end of Year).	
Complete risk assessments for at least 300 pests by year-end using the Horizon Scanning Tool.	
Draft the updated national risk register based on the latest pest risk data.	
Identify priority pests for Pest Risk Analysis (e.g., based on economic importance, trade risks, etc.).	
Conduct Pest Risk Analysis for the first set of pests, completing at least xx assessments by year-end.	
Activity 3.2.2 Produce evidence reports on biological and socio-economic impact of prioritized pests	
Identify and prioritize pests for analysis through consultations with stakeholders.	
Develop research methodologies and tools for data collection.	
Conduct field data collection on biological impacts and survey farmers for socio-economic data.	
Analyze data and produce preliminary evidence reports.	

Output 3.3: Pest prevention and management plans for priority pests developed and implemented	
Activity 3.3.1 Support development of preventive measures for high priority pests	
Identify priority pests and assess existing pest management strategies.	
Develop a framework for prevention and response plans.	
Draft and pilot the first prevention and response plans for key priority pests.	
Validate, finalize, and publish the initial set of plans.	
Activity 3.3.2 Implement management plans for priority pests	
Roll out awareness campaigns and develop gender-sensitive, IPM-based, and climate-smart management plans.	
Disseminate management plans through plant clinics etc. and train plant doctors and extension officers.	
Scale up awareness campaigns and partnerships with cooperatives, and refine management plans based on MEL results.	
Cross-cutting thematic areas	
Monitoring, evaluation, & learning (Student support and stakeholder engagement)	
Identify PhD and Master's research priorities, develop ToRs, and select candidates.	
Finalize funding agreements for student support and begin their research.	
Monitor research progress and provide mentorship.	
Establish national steering committee and conduct the first stakeholder meeting.	
Conduct the national forum for broader stakeholder engagement.	
Regular result monitoring	
Climate change (Evaluate national priorities in agricultural adaptation)	
Conduct a review of national agricultural adaptation policies and engage key stakeholders to gather insights.	
Design and conduct workshops to assess the uptake of policies at both national and subnational levels.	
Analyze the effectiveness of these policies and identify any gaps. Host a national workshop to present findings and recommend improvements.	
Visibility (Communication & marketing, outreach, and events)	
Develop the communication strategy, set up an online presence, and design promotional materials. Organize the project launch event.	
Launch public outreach campaigns and organize media partnerships, targeting xxx,000 individuals through mass media.	
Project management (Setting up a local country office and project management personnel)	
Secure office space, complete legal registration, hire core national project management personnel, and set up office infrastructure.	
Develop operational guidelines, establish financial systems, and provide training for new staff.	
Monitor office operations, ensuring alignment with project goals and stakeholder coordination.	

Annex 2:
Progress Tracking of Project Indicators in 2025



Annex 2: Progress Tracking of Project Indicators in 2025

The table presents updated performance against agreed project indicators, including baselines, 2025 targets, cumulative achievements, and a colour-coded status reflecting progress.

Unlike 2024, which focused primarily on baseline establishment and MEL system setup during a shortened implementation period, 2025 represents a full year of delivery with measurable progress across output, outcome, and selected impact indicators. Tracking systems are now established, allowing performance to be assessed against defined annual targets.

Farmer reach figures are conservatively reported and reflect direct engagement only. Secondary farmer-to-farmer knowledge diffusion is not included to minimise the risk of double counting within Burundi's relatively concentrated farming population.

A traffic-light colour classification has been applied to provide a clear and transparent overview of indicator status, as outlined below:

Colour	Category	Description
	On track for future targets	Baseline established and tracking mechanisms in place. Also includes indicators where the life of project target has already been achieved
	Baseline established, monitoring ongoing	Baseline data collected, tracking initiated, and initial progress made toward output-level results, with further monitoring required
	Tracking delayed/needs attention	Indicators that faced delays in data collection or tracking mechanisms not yet established
	Not yet applicable in 2025	Impact and outcome indicators requiring more time before measurable results can be assessed; linked to 2025/2026 targets

The following results table provides a detailed breakdown of each indicator, its progress in 2025, and the corresponding status based on the above categorization.

Impact	Description	Indicator	* Disag.	Baseline	2024	2025			2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
						Target	Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	
Impact: Smallholder farmers in Burundi producing more food using sustainable crop production practices	Smallholder farmers in Burundi producing more food using sustainable crop production practices	Number of smallholder farmers with increased yields	F	40,079	-	50,000	28,694		93,326	**240,000**
			M	56,595	-		22,662			
			<35	U/k	-		14,849			
		Number of smallholder farmers reporting increased income	F	32,189	-	20,000	37,224		39,732	**144,000**
			M	52,079	-		29,400			
			<35	U/k	-		19,263			
		Number of smallholders whose livelihood became more resilient to shocks, including climate shocks	F	6,508	-	22,000	9,582		44,770	**84,000**
			M	10,722	-		6,462			
			<35	U/k	-		8,139			
		Number of hectares of land under IPM practices, including biocontrol or biopesticides, supporting climate resilience	NA	2,244	7,219	20,000	21,360		80,000	**100,000**
		***Volume of export of the target value chains due to improved phytosanitary measures	NA	0						**0**

Impact	Description	Indicator	* Disag.	Baseline	2024	2025			2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
						Target	Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	
Outcome 1: Improved access to farmer agricultural advisory services	Strengthening farmer advisory through consolidating plant clinic operations and delivering complementary extension approaches	Number of farmers satisfied with advisory services	F	74,805	-	125,000	70,179		247,727	**600,000**
			M	152,468	-		55,422			
			<35	U/k	-		U/k			
		Number of farmers adopting sustainable crop production practices	F	80,333	-	16,000	70,059		31,762	**240,000**
			M	111,905	-		55,386			
			<35	U/k	-		36,119			
		Number of women accessing agricultural advisory services	NA	113,280	-	42,000	70,059		84,720	**240,000**
Output 1.1: Consolidated plant clinics operations	Consolidated plant clinics operations	Number of smallholder farmers provided with advice	F	113,280	7,753	175,000	77,843		351,025	**800,000**
			M	160,695	18,983		61,540			
			<35	U/k	-		40,132			
		Number of plant clinics running	NA	121	121	171	221		236	**236**
		Number of people trained in plant doctor and other modules	F	29	-	100	114		189	**600**
			M	282	-		335			
			<35	U/k	-		U/k			
Output 1.2: Increased awareness of gender-sensitive agricultural advisory services	Increased awareness of gender-sensitive agricultural advisory services	Number of stakeholders trained in gender approaches	F	220	-	290	301		572	**1,500**
			M	418	-		296			
			<35	U/k	-		171			
Output 1.3: Complementary extension approaches delivered	Complementary extension approaches delivered	Number of complementary extension approaches piloted	NA	2	-	1	3		1	**4**

Impact	Description	Indicator	* Disag.	Baseline	2024	2025			2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
						Target	Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	
Outcome 2: Reduced risk from crop protection practices	Facilitating and promoting the use of low-risk pest management practices that benefit smallholder farmers, including the delivery of processes to support identification and use of biological control alternatives	Number of smallholder farmers who implement lower-risk plant protection practices and products [IPM]	F	14,571	-	40,000	70,059		74,759	**150,000**
			M	20,670	-		55,386			
			<35	U/k	-		36,119			
		Number of biological control solutions adopted in local farming systems	NA	0	-	1	-		1	**2**
Output 2.1: Increased awareness of the risks associated with pesticide use and strategies to reduce risks to humans, animals, and environment	Increased awareness of the risks associated with pesticide use and strategies to reduce risks to humans, animals, and environment	Number of stakeholders whose levels of awareness of pesticide risk reduction practices change	F	0	-	35,000	-		65,000	**100,000**
			M	0	-		-			
			<35	U/k	-		-			
Output 2.2: Biological control solutions for regulated pests promoted in Burundi	Biological control solutions for regulated pests promoted in Burundi	Number of classical biocontrol agent species released	NA	1	-	-	1		1	**2**
		Number of augmentative biocontrol solutions selected for testing	NA	0	-	1	16		1	**2**
		Number of augmentative biocontrol solutions released	NA	0	-	-	-		1	**1**

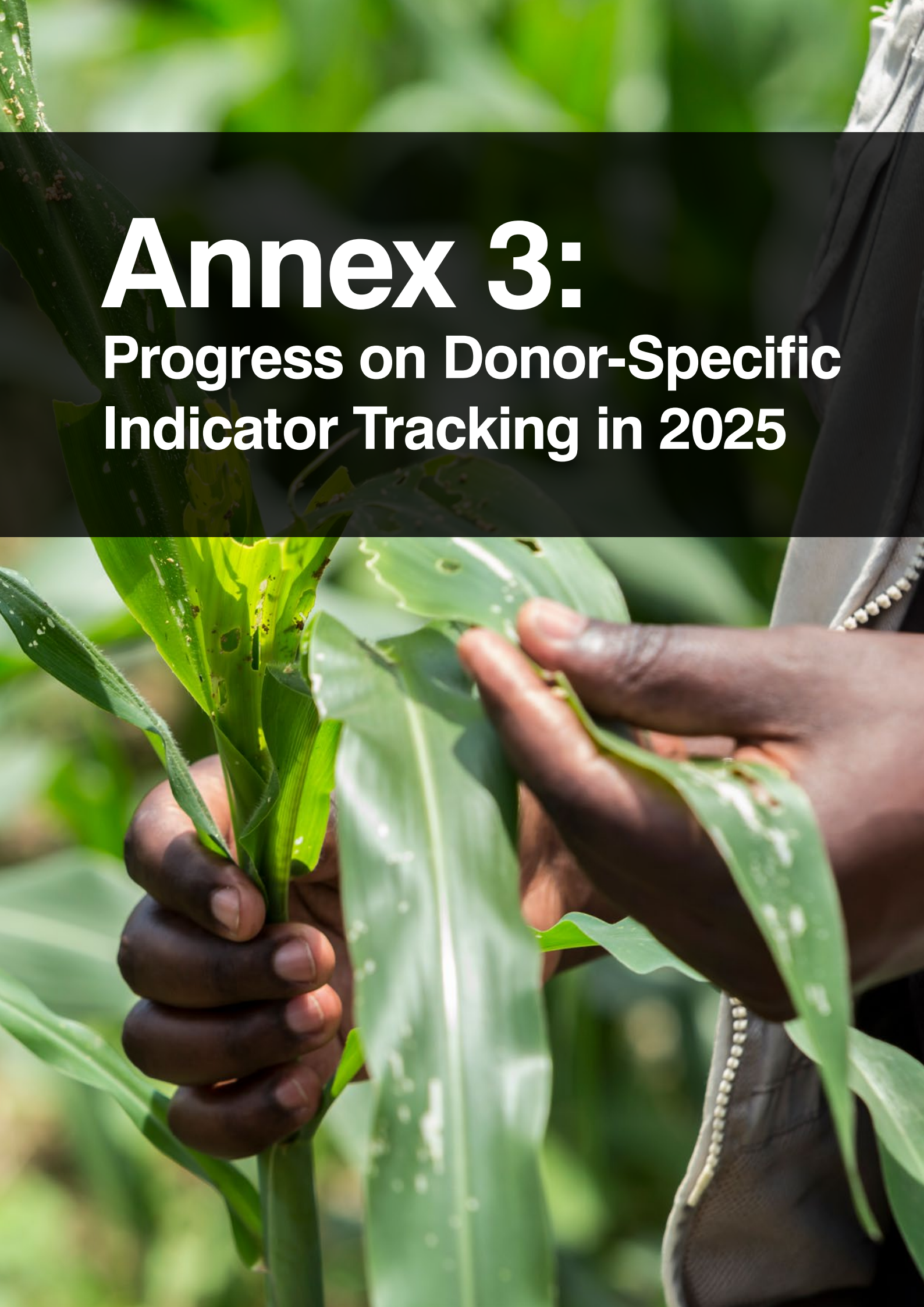
Impact	Description	Indicator	* Disag.	Baseline	2024	2025			2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
						Target	Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	
Output 2.3: Identified income generating opportunities for young people and women in low-risk crop protection service provision	Identified income generating opportunities for young people and women in low-risk crop protection service provision	Number of agri-service providers provided with relevant knowledge and skills	F	0	-	1	20		100	**150**
			M				21			
			<35				41			
		Number of women/ youth led associations/ businesses with additional technical and business skills	NA	0	-	1	-		4	**5**
Outcome 3: Improved phytosanitary services	Strengthening the country's ability to safeguard its agriculture and trade from the risks associated with regulated pests	Process and tools at Directorate of Plant Protection strengthened to support phytosanitary activities in safeguarding agricultural practices	NA	0	-	1	2		1	**2**
		Number of staff skilled for effective delivery of phytosanitary services	F	2	-	20	-		20	**50**
			M	8	-		-			
			<35	0	-		-			
		Number of pest management plans implemented as framework for pest risk response	NA	0	-	1	-		2	**3**
		A functional surveillance system in monitoring and detecting potential pest threats	NA	0	-	-	-		1	**1**

Impact	Description	Indicator	* Disag.	Baseline	2024	2025			2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
						Target	Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	
Output 3.1: Phytosanitary measures and protocols implemented	Phytosanitary measures and protocols implemented	Number of regulated pests accurately identified through strengthened diagnostic laboratory capabilities	NA	0	-	1	2		3	**4**
		Number of phytosanitary measures developed	NA	0	-	1	2		1	**2**
		Number of staff trained in phytosanitary measures and protocols	F	2	-	10	14		10	**30**
			M	8	-		16			
			<35	0	-		9			
Output 3.2: Pest prioritization processes embedded into the national system	Pest prioritization processes embedded into the national system	Number of climate adapted tools (Horizon Scanning Tool, Pest Risk Analysis, pest insight reports, pest risk registers) utilized to assess pest risks	NA	1	1	1	2		1	**3**
		Number of pests assessed for risks through horizon scanning	NA	109	1,791	360	-		731	**1200**
		Number of people trained in using the climate adapted tool to assess pest risks	F	0	4	10	4		20	**30**
			M	0	25		18			
			<35	U/k	0					
		National risk register updated	NA	0	-	-	1		1	**1**
		Number of pests assessed for risk through PRA	NA	0	0	5	21		10	**15**

Impact	Description	Indicator	* Disag.	Baseline	2024	2025			2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
						Target	Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	
Output 3.3: Pest prevention and management plans for regulated pests developed and implemented for regulated pests	Pest prevention and management plans for regulated pests developed and implemented for regulated pests	Number of prevention and response plans developed for regulated pests	NA	0	-	1	3		1	**2**
		Number of evidence reports and datasets on biological and socio-economic impacts of prioritized pests produced and disseminated	NA	0	-	1	1		1	**2**

*Disag. – Disaggregation (F – female; M – male; <35 - youth)

**LOP target refers to the total expected achievement of a specific indicator over the entire duration of a project. It is a cumulative measure that aggregates progress made across all project years.



Annex 3:
Progress on Donor-Specific Indicator Tracking in 2025

Annex 3: Progress on Donor-Specific Indicator Tracking in 2025

The table presents updated performance against agreed donor-specific indicators, including baselines, 2025 targets, cumulative achievements, and a colour-coded status reflecting progress.

Unlike 2024, which focused primarily on baseline establishment and MEL system setup during a shortened implementation period, 2025 represents a full year of delivery with measurable progress across output, outcome, and selected impact indicators. Tracking systems are now established, allowing performance to be assessed against defined annual targets.

Farmer reach figures are conservatively reported and reflect direct engagement only. Secondary farmer-to-farmer knowledge diffusion is not included to minimise the risk of double counting within Burundi's relatively concentrated farming population.

To provide a clear overview, a traffic light colour-coding system has been applied to categorize progress, as outlined below:

Colour	Category	Description
	On track for future targets	Baseline established and tracking mechanisms in place. Also includes indicators where the life of project target has already been achieved
	Baseline established, monitoring ongoing	Baseline data collected, tracking initiated, and initial progress made toward output-level results, with further monitoring required
	Tracking delayed/needs attention	Indicators that faced delays in data collection or tracking mechanisms not yet established
	Not yet applicable in 2025	Impact and outcome indicators requiring more time before measurable results can be assessed; linked to 2025/2026 targets

The results table follows, detailing progress for each donor-specific indicator based on the above categorization.

Result level	Indicator	* FNS ID	** Disag.	Baseline-2024	2024	2025			Target 2026	*** Life of project Achieved (LOP)
						Target	Achieved	Indicator tracking		
Outcome	B.1.1. Number of small-scale food producers who progressively realize a living income	B.1.a	Female	32,189	-	20,000	37,224		39,732	**144,000**
			Male	52,079	-		29,400			
			<35	U/k	-		19,263			
	B.1.2. Number of small-scale food producers who progressively decrease the yield gap	B.1.b	Female	40,079	-	50,000	28,694		93,326	**240,000**
			Male	56,595	-		22,662			
			<35	U/k			14,849			
	B.1.3.Number of female small-scale food producers who progressively became more empowered	B.1.c	Female	101,952	-	52,000	70,059		78,000	**224,200**
			<35	U/k	-		20,317			
	B.1.4.Number of small-scale food producers whose livelihood became more resilient to shocks	B.2	Female	536	-	3,200	9,582		4,800	**9,700**
			Male	1,164	-		6,462			
			<35	U/k			8,139			
	D.1. Number of small-scale food producers applying new technologies/practices that aim to transform food systems towards desirable outcomes	1.1 (*FNS-RF)	Female	101,952	-	161,800	77,843		242,700	**720,000**
			Male	144,625	-		61,540			
			<35	U/k	-		40,132			
	D.2. Number of Food and Nutrition Security-relevant knowledge and extension institutes reached with interventions that aim to strengthen their capacity	1.2 (*FNS-RF)	NA	4	-	2	5		2	**8**
	E.1. Number of reforms/ improvements in major (inter) national Food and Nutrition Security policies / laws / regulations, benefitting at least tens of thousands of undernourished people and/or small-scale food producers	2.1 (*FNS-RF)	NA	0	-	1	3		1	**2**

Result level	Indicator	* FNS ID	** Disag.	Baseline-2024	2024	2025			Target 2026	*** Life of project Achieved (LOP)
						Target	Achieved	Indicator tracking		
Output	B.2.1. Number of small-scale food producers directly reached with activities aimed at structural / systemic improvement of their agricultural performance	B.x.1.1	Female	2,620	7,753	20,000	47,252		20,000	**70,000**
			Male	5,691	18,983		31,863			
			<35	U/k	267		40,132			
	B.2.2. Number of small-scale food producers directly reached with activities aimed at temporary/partial improvement of their agricultural performance	B.x.1.2	Female	11,842	-	16,000	30,299		24,000	**71,000**
			Male	18,598	-		29,386			
			<35	U/k	-		u/k			
	C2.2. Number of hectares of small-scale food producers farmland directly reached with activities aimed at temporary/ partial improvement of agro-ecological sustainability	C.x.1.1	NA	2,244	7,219	20,000	21,360		80,000	**100,000**
	3. To what extent does the activity contribute to the result area Improving the enabling environment for FNS	NA	NA				Refer to narrative text			
	D.0. Improvements towards desired changes, transitions or transformations in food systems	NA	NA				Refer to narrative text			

*FNS- Food and Nutrition Security

** Disaggregation (F – female; M – male; <35 - youth)

*** LOP target refers to the total expected achievement of a specific indicator over the entire duration of a project. It is a cumulative measure that aggregates progress made across all project years

Annex 4:
Risk overview
(updated December 2025)

Annex 4: Risk overview (updated December 2025)

*Text in red indicate the revised entries in the risk register.

Risk and implications	Impact	Likelihood	Total	Management Strategy for dealing with risk	Residual Risk Total
CONTEXTUAL RISKS (country, regional, political, thematic)					
Political instability, geopolitical tensions in the Great Lakes region, terrorism, crime and lack of health and safety resulting in threats to staff security, delays in programme implementation.	5	3	15	Prioritize the development of strong relationships with local partners which support in-country operations and logistics. Global Business Travel & Personal Accident insurance policy in place for CABI staff. Use of external expert advisors on policy and advice (e.g., UNDSS). Regularly review working environment in Burundi including advice and insurance cover in case of conflict areas.	5x2 = 10
In-country partnership risks, including: • Local and national authorities do not have mandates or budgets to address programme priorities. • Failure to establish new partnerships required to scale activities up or out.	4	3	12	Periodically conduct a stakeholder review to ensure that appropriate partners are in place. Ensure good engagement with governments and implementing partners, across all project elements. Develop sustainability plans to ensure medium- and long-term commitment and investment from partners. Understand and respect national mandates, policies.	3x2 = 6
Competition for human and financial resources from other projects / organizations in Burundi, including limited availability of qualified consultants for specialized technical areas.	4	4	16	Ensure good alignment of interventions and objectives with national, local and partner priorities. Regular consultation and discussion with NL Embassy and other institutional donors to seek alignment with rather than duplication by other initiatives. Explore hybrid models, where international consultants work remotely and complement local experts. Establish framework agreements or MoUs with key technical institutions to ensure a steady pool of skilled personnel.	4x2 = 6
Insufficient private sector partners interested in working with the project.	4	3	12	Engage with private sector partners, ensuring programme understands their requirements and our offerings are clear. Identify private sector entities that are active locally and regionally, not necessarily globally.	4x2 = 8

Risk and implications	Impact	Likelihood	Total	Management Strategy for dealing with risk	Residual Risk Total
Fuel shortages causing severe disruptions in transportation and logistics, leading to delays in project activities and increased operational costs.	4	4	16	Collaborate with local fuel suppliers to secure reliable sources and prioritize fuel for essential project operations. Optimize fuel use by planning and scheduling transportation and field activities to minimize fuel consumption. Develop and maintain a contingency plan for fuel shortages, including strategies for mitigating delays and adjusting project timelines if necessary. A contingency fund will be included in the project budget to cover potential increases in fuel prices or transportation costs, achieved through reallocation of existing funds.	4x2 = 8
In-country economic situation results in financial loss for the project.	3	4	12	Include a contingency amount in project budget for unexpected costs, including inflation and/or adverse exchange rates.	2x3 = 6
PROJECT RISKS					
Agricultural service providers are not willing or do not have the technical capacity to use digital tools.	5	2	10	Ensure sufficient training, practice and support is available for service providers.	5x1 = 5
Connectivity constraints, combined with user adoption challenges and capacity gaps, limit effective use of digital advisory tools by agricultural service providers.	4	3	12	Deploy offline versions of digital tools and ensure multiple formats for training products. Provide refresher training for users. Improve usability of digital tools. Strengthen monitoring of digital engagement.	2x2 = 4
Business models for agri-businesses and lower risk products are not sustainable.	5	4	20	Develop sustainable business models for all services before deciding on further project investment into capacity or skills building. Ensure lower risk product providers have assessed market opportunity before investing into testing and sales activities.	4x2 = 8
Dependence on in-country partnerships leading to disruptions in implementation.	4	3	12	Ensure good engagement with governments and implementing partners across all project elements, ensuring partners demonstrate sufficient commitment to project objectives.	3x2 = 6
Implementation approaches lead to partners stepping back from responsibilities, as CABI fulfils their role.	4	3	12	CABI and partners have clear agreements on roles and responsibilities, including how delivery of interventions will be transferred to partners over time.	3x2 = 6

Risk and implications	Impact	Likelihood	Total	Management Strategy for dealing with risk	Residual Risk Total
Poor management practices resulting in limited visibility and oversight of progress and issues.	5	2	10	Establish responsibilities for PlantwisePlus Burundi staff members, including budget and spending oversight.	3x1 = 3
Project timeline misalignment with regulatory and operational processes may prevent key interventions (e.g. biological control programmes) from reaching implementation stage before project closure in 2026.	5	3	15	Fast-track preparatory steps; align timelines; document interim results; explore follow-on funding opportunities.	4x2 = 8
Lack of sustainability of newly established services and tools, results in unaffordable or unnecessary products and services with short term impact, which aren't used by partners once CABI interventions end.	5	3	15	Identify appropriate public or private sector organizations who would own proposed services/products. Agree on appropriate business plan with relevant stakeholders. Ensure sufficient training, practice and support is available for service providers. Co-develop exit strategy with relevant partners to ensure ongoing ownership.	3x2 = 6
Limited staff capacity and poor management practices lead to delays in implementation and failure to meet timeline.	5	3	15	Reduce reliance on single individuals by ensuring managed succession planning. Identify key roles and recruit new staff or promote existing staff for key positions to help drive project activities. Outsource specific implementation responsibilities to collaborators, particularly in case CABI lacks expertise.	4x2 = 8
Incorrect budget estimations prior to project kick-off leading to inappropriate distribution of funding.	4	2	8	Where possible, take a bottom-up approach to budgeting and activity planning. Implement an effective monitoring system for both deliverables and expenditure. Rectify budgets through reforecasting processes throughout implementation period.	4x1 = 4
Lack of management accountability over project expenditure.	3	3	9	Produce monthly accounting reports, explaining any major variances. Ensure reports are internally and externally audited.	3x2 = 6

Risk and implications	Impact	Likelihood	Total	Management Strategy for dealing with risk	Residual Risk Total
INSTITUTIONAL RISKS					
CABI activities undermines local, national, or regional relationships (e.g., trade relations), causing reputational damage.	5	2	10	Understand and respect national and regional mandates, policies, and their crossovers.	5x1 = 5
Failure to adequately understand national legislation for plant protection products leads to CABI driving illegal or restricted activities.	5	2	10	Work with country partners to gather relevant information. Monitor and report legislative changes that could impact project advice or operations. Adapt farmer advisory to national legislation. Abide by (and build partner capacity to understand) international codes of conduct, e.g., the FAO Code of Conduct on Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents.	5x1 = 5
Financial loss and/or fraud by external collaborators resulting in reputational damage and lack of project delivery.	3	2	6	Collaborator policy in place which includes a requirement to regularly perform a Collaborator Risk Assessment of external collaborators and to take corrective action accordingly. Written agreements with external collaborators in place and level of cash advances limited to reduce risk. Regular contact with partners and review of outstanding advances.	2x1=2
Risks related to intellectual property rights, such as: • Failure to comply with Data Protection legislation leading to legal action. • Failure to secure CABI's Intellectual Property. • Incorrect or outdated technical and scientific advice on integrated pest management being circulated in CABI's name, resulting in reputational risk.	4	3	12	Ensure data protection issues are considered in the planning and implementation of tools and products. Ensure CABI existing and new IP is protected in key contracts. Raise awareness of IP protection in legal contracts through training etc. Ensure technical and scientific advice on integrated pest management in CABI's name is regularly reviewed and updated. Ensure licences/agreements in place with third parties for CABI's publishing products.	3x2=6

Risk and implications	Impact	Likelihood	Total	Management Strategy for dealing with risk	Residual Risk Total
Media and research risks, including: • Project media fails to recognize media subjects, raising personal data issues, resulting in reputational and legal risk. • Personal and confidential data not protected during programme operations, resulting in harm to participants and reputational and legal damages to CABI. • Research participants are harmed during PlantwisePlus activities.	4	3	12	Raise awareness of personal image rights and seek subject permission for media use. Personal and confidential data collection is limited to necessary and data sets are anonymised and stored with restricted access. All research involving human subjects requires Ethical Review Board approval.	4x2 = 8
Delays in institutionalization of plant clinic operations due to post-election transitions and ongoing government administrative restructuring (e.g. unclear mandates, reporting integration, and management of plant doctors).	4	3	12	Post-election engagement with authorities to maintain decision-making continuity; align with evolving institutional mandates; support decentralized structures; prioritize embedding of plant clinics into reporting systems, job descriptions, and operational frameworks.	3x2 = 6
Reliance on a limited number of specialized technical experts (e.g. in biological control and diagnostics) creates bottlenecks and continuity risks.	4	3	12	Expand capacity through training; support specialization; promote knowledge transfer; broaden expertise base.	3x2 = 6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The PlantwisePlus Burundi vision is to reach 75% of smallholder farmers in Burundi, providing them with access to the knowledge and skills they need to improve their production practices and produce more food

National Responsible Organization:

PlantwisePlus Burundi is financially supported by:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Contact

To find out more and discuss how you can get involved in this exciting new initiative, contact either of the following:

Janny Vos, Partnerships Development Director
E: j.vos@cabi.org

Willis Ochilo, Senior Scientist
T: +254 (0)20 2271000/20
E: w.ochilo@cabi.org

www.plantwiseplus.org