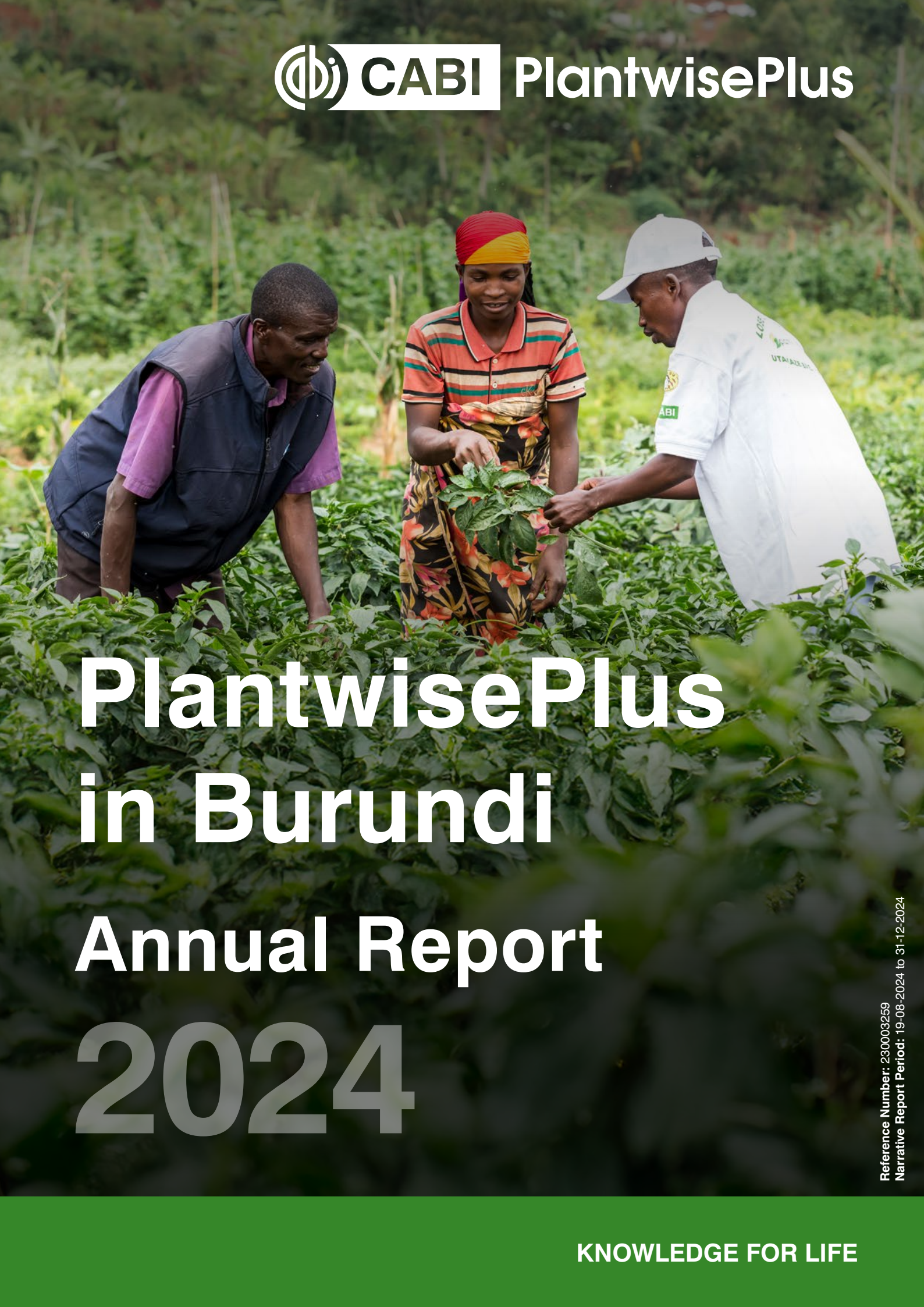

PlantwisePlus in Burundi

Annual Report 2024

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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	L'Autorité Burundaise de Régulation des Produits Vétérinaires, des Pesticides et des Aliments
BCA	Biological Control Agent
DPV	Direction de la Protection des Végétaux
GRAST	Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool
HST	Horizon Scanning Tool
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISABU	Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi
ITAB	Institut Technique Agricole du Burundi
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MMB	Mango Mealybug
POMS	PlantwisePlus Online Management System

Executive Summary

PlantwisePlus Burundi aims to support smallholder farmers in Burundi to produce more food using sustainable crop production practices. The project employs an integrated approach, focusing on improving access to agricultural advisory services, reducing crop protection risks, and strengthening phytosanitary services. This approach seeks to create a more resilient, sustainable, and productive agricultural sector while safeguarding the health of farming communities and consumers, the environment, and trade. Funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bujumbura, PlantwisePlus Burundi builds on the foundations laid by Plantwise Burundi (2020-2023) and is implemented in partnership with key national and international stakeholders, led by Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi (ISABU).

Building a strong foundation for impact

In 2024, PlantwisePlus Burundi focused on foundational activities and evidence generation to strengthen plant health advisory services and sustainable pest management.

Despite a seven-month transition gap between Plantwise Burundi and the start of PlantwisePlus Burundi, plant clinics remained operational, demonstrating sustainability and national ownership. Farmer reach continued uninterrupted, highlighting the resilience and effectiveness of the plant health advisory system. To further reinforce this system, a status assessment of plant clinics was conducted through cluster meetings with plant doctors. These meetings provided vital platforms for knowledge sharing, collaborative planning, and strengthening engagement, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Significant progress was made in capacity-building efforts. The preparatory phase for piloting plant doctor training curriculum at Institut Technique Agricole du Burundi (ITABs) was completed, including the development of training guides and a roadmap for full-scale implementation. Additionally, a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) assessment among plant doctors evaluated gender-responsive service provision, informing strategies to enhance inclusivity in agricultural advisory services.

To address plant protection challenges, data collection was completed for a study identifying obstacles hindering the adoption of lower-risk pest management practices. Findings revealed low awareness of alternative solutions, underscoring the need for targeted interventions. Complementing this effort, the readiness of the natural enemy rearing facility was assessed, identifying key areas for improvement to support eco-friendly pest management approaches.

A comprehensive horizon scanning exercise was conducted to identify and assess new and emerging plant pest risks, establishing a robust framework for prioritizing and implementing pest management strategies. In line with these efforts, PlantwisePlus Burundi supported the Direction de la Protection des Végétaux (DPV) in updating Burundi's regulated pest list, classifying 489 species based on their potential impact and pathways of introduction. This milestone was achieved ahead of schedule, although the list is still awaiting official approval from all relevant authorities before publication.

Finally, a rapid farm household survey on mango mealybug (MMB) was conducted, revealing high awareness of the pest but also alarming infestation rates and significant economic losses. These findings have underscored the urgency for effective control interventions to protect farmers' livelihoods.

Through these strategic activities, PlantwisePlus Burundi has strengthened the foundations for sustainable plant health management, paving the way towards long-term impact for smallholder farmers and agricultural systems in the country.

Overcoming challenges in 2024

In 2024, PlantwisePlus Burundi navigated several challenges while maintaining project momentum. A seven-month contract gap posed potential disruptions, but the continued operation of plant clinics demonstrated early signs of sustainability. Fuel shortages and logistical constraints were mitigated through proactive planning and flexibility. Difficulties in securing relevant consultants were addressed by leveraging internal expertise, highlighting the project's adaptability. Delays in establishing partnerships and setting up an office were managed through intensified efforts to maintain activities and implement alternative arrangements.

Some activities faced delays due to their dependency on preceding tasks—for instance, the development of tailored extension messages was postponed until plant health problem prioritization was finalized. Short timeframes also posed challenges for activities such as monitoring the impact of biological control agents (BCAs), requiring careful planning to ensure effective implementation.

Key lessons learned in 2024

The 2024 implementation of PlantwisePlus Burundi provided valuable insights for future project planning and execution. Despite a successful project initiation, unforeseen challenges, such as torrential rains and fuel scarcity, highlighted the need for proactive risk assessment and contingency planning. The pest horizon scanning exercise proved effective, but it also highlighted the necessity of strengthening the capacity of key actors in risk assessment, monitoring, and communication to ensure the long-term adoption of these pest preparedness processes.

The successful execution of the KAP assessment of plant doctors on gender-sensitive service provision, using a hybrid data collection approach, demonstrated the value of methodological flexibility in overcoming challenges, such as lower-than-expected female participation.

Several activities initially planned for outsourcing were successfully completed by in-house experts, reinforcing the importance of continuous internal capacity building to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Furthermore, strong collaborative partnerships played a critical role in achieving project objectives, while the sustained operation of plant clinics showcased the significance of fostering local ownership and long-term sustainability.

Next steps for PlantwisePlus Burundi

In 2025, PlantwisePlus Burundi will take strategic actions to enhance plant health management, strengthen sustainability, and improve agricultural advisory services. Additionally, the finalized report of the KAP assessment of plant doctors on gender-sensitive service provision will be validated and disseminated, ensuring that its findings inform training programs and enhance gender responsiveness in agricultural advisory services.

The project will enhance its approach to measuring farmer reach by integrating complementary data collection mechanisms beyond the PlantwisePlus Online Management System (POMS), ensuring systematic documentation of advisory interactions across electronic, paper-based, and informal prescription methods. Recognizing gaps in gender- and age-disaggregated data, efforts will focus on strengthening data collection protocols, improving the tracking of women and youth participation, and refining digital tools for easier disaggregation. Capacity building for plant doctors and youth-focused engagement strategies will be prioritized to address low youth participation rates. These improvements will support more inclusive, data-driven interventions, ensuring equitable delivery and effective scaling of advisory services to a broader spectrum of smallholder farmers in Burundi.

Ongoing plant doctor refresher courses and troubleshooting support will be provided to strengthen data collection, address emerging pest challenges, and enhance plant clinic services. PlantwisePlus Burundi remains committed to refining quality standards, institutionalizing best practices, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of plant clinics through stakeholder collaboration and adaptive learning.

To promote sustainable agriculture and pesticide risk reduction, the project will finalize its communication strategy and launch mass extension activities targeting farmers, consumers, and agro-dealers. Insights from 2024 plant clinic records will shape targeted extension campaigns in 2025, aligning advisory services with real-time plant health threats and the needs of farmers. The assessment of stakeholders' KAP and challenges in plant protection will further inform decision-making and the development of interventions to promote safer plant protection methods.

A key priority will be the implementation of rapid response measures to mitigate economic losses caused by the invasive MMB. Efforts will be accelerated to establish a functional parasitoid-rearing facility at ISABU, with a focus on completing the refurbishment, procuring necessary equipment, and training technicians.

The findings from the horizon scanning exercise will be utilized to strengthen national plant health strategies, including updating and publicising the regulated pest list, conducting risk analyses, implementing surveillance, developing contingency plans, and raising awareness.

In 2025, PlantwisePlus Burundi will expand its scope to address critical challenges related to climate change adaptation and youth inclusion in sustainable agribusiness. On climate change, the project will evaluate national priorities in agricultural adaptation to assess the effectiveness of existing policies and identify gaps. This will involve a comprehensive review of national adaptation strategies and engagement with key stakeholders to gather insights.

In parallel, the project will focus on identifying viable low-risk crop protection services and enterprises based on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles, with a strong emphasis on empowering young women and men. This will include a market assessment to identify demand-driven crop protection services. To support youth-led agricultural enterprises, the project will provide targeted training and knowledge-sharing sessions for agri-service providers. Additionally, women- and youth-led associations and businesses will receive specialized technical and business training to strengthen their capacity and market competitiveness.

Activity Highlights

In 2024, PlantwisePlus Burundi prioritized strengthening the plant health system and promoting sustainable pest management practices. Key activities focused on generating crucial data for evidence-based decision-making, improving the operational capacity of plant clinics, and fostering the adoption of lower-risk plant protection methods. These efforts involved rigorous data collection on pest prevalence and economic impact, assessment of plant doctor performance, and identification of barriers to sustainable agricultural practices.

The project also emphasized collaborative partnerships through validation workshops and strategic pest prioritization. These interventions aimed to strengthen national expertise, facilitate knowledge exchange, and promote effective pest management approaches that safeguard farmer livelihoods.

Given that the project officially commenced in August 2024, the implementation period within the current reporting cycle was limited to just four months. This compressed timeline posed challenges in executing planned activities at full scale. However, recognizing the importance of early momentum, the project proactively sought opportunities to accelerate implementation, ensuring that critical activities were initiated as early as possible. Despite the shortened implementation window, significant progress was made in data collection and preliminary groundwork, setting a strong foundation for subsequent project phases.

To provide an overview of progress made against the plan in 2024, project activities are categorized into four key implementation stages: completed activities, ongoing activities, initiated but delayed activities, and planned but not initiated activities. This classification highlights the status of each activity and key developments that occurred during the reporting period. A structured overview, based on the project Gantt Chart, is presented in **Annex 1** indicating also which achievements exceeded expectations as well as those that fell short.

Completed activities

Entrench gender-sensitive indicators to advance monitoring and evaluation of plant clinic operations with a gender-sensitive approach

PlantwisePlus Burundi strengthened gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation within plant clinic operations by embedding key gender indicators into the monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework. A key achievement was the inclusion of these gender-specific indicators at both the outcome and output levels, paving the way for systematic monitoring of women's access to agricultural advisory services and targeted efforts to train stakeholders in gender-sensitive approaches. At the outcome level, this ensures that the number of women benefiting from plant clinic support is consistently tracked, while at the output level, it facilitates the training of stakeholders to deliver advisory services that address the distinct needs of both women and men farmers. These efforts reinforce accountability in gender integration and contribute to a more equitable extension system, ensuring that plant clinics effectively serve diverse farming communities in Burundi.

Utilizing plant clinic records, identify relevant topics and appropriate mass extension campaign strategies to disseminate plant health-related messages at scale

In 2024, PlantwisePlus Burundi utilized plant clinic records to identify key plant health concerns. The analysis of plant clinic data revealed plant health problems that were most frequently reported and recommendations provided by plant doctors, as captured in the POMS. This information, complemented by other data sources, is crucial in shaping evidence-based extension messaging to address the most pressing plant health challenges faced by farmers.

Conduct surveys and interviews with relevant stakeholders to gather their insights into their current plant protection knowledge, attitudes, practices and challenges

PlantwisePlus Burundi conducted a comprehensive study across eight provinces to assess stakeholders' knowledge, attitudes, practices, and challenges in plant protection. This study aimed to generate insights that inform future interventions. Initially planned for outsourcing, recruitment challenges led the project to leverage its internal capacity and conduct the data collection in-house. To strengthen local ownership and ensure greater buy-in to the study's findings and recommendations, the project collaborated with L'Autorité Burundaise de Régulation des Produits Vétérinaires, des Pesticides et des Aliments (ABREVPA), a newly established regulatory body, fostering its role in sustainable plant health initiatives. The study engaged diverse stakeholders, including 807 farmers, 791 consumers, 129 agro-dealers, and key institutional representatives, using structured interviews and focus group discussions. A notable preliminary finding was the low awareness of lower-risk plant protection methods, such as biopesticides, among both farmers and agro-dealers—none of whom stocked these products due to a lack of knowledge. The study's results will inform decision-making processes and the development of targeted interventions to promote safer plant protection practices. Data analysis and reporting are currently underway to ensure the timely dissemination of findings in 2025.

Identify difficult-to-manage pests in a target crop or agricultural system for which classical BCAs can be effective in the local context

As part of efforts to promote sustainable pest management, the project identified difficult-to-manage pests in key agricultural systems where classical BCAs could be effective. A systematic assessment identified mango mealybug, papaya mealybug, and citrus orthezia scale as priority invasive pests requiring immediate intervention, particularly in mango production. To ensure feasibility, the project also evaluated the readiness of the parasitoid-rearing facility at ISABU, assessing infrastructure, equipment adequacy, technician competency, operational workflows, and environmental control systems. This work represents a significant milestone, aligning with the planned delivery of activities under the sustainable pest management framework. The identification of priority pests and groundwork for classical biological control interventions will help reduce pesticide reliance in Burundi.

Ongoing activities

Advocate for government funding mechanisms and supportive policies that recognize and support the role of plant clinics in the country's agricultural development

Efforts to advocate for government funding mechanisms and supportive policies that recognize plant clinics as vital components of Burundi's agricultural development are actively underway. In 2024, to build national ownership and institutional buy-in, the project successfully engaged various plant health system practitioners through strategic review and planning meetings. These included cluster meetings with active plant doctors and their supervisors, fostering a collective understanding of the role of plant clinics in delivering advisory services. Additionally, a review and planning meeting with experts from various institutions within the plant health system helped align priorities and reinforce collaboration. Further advancing policy integration, a review and planning meeting was held with agri-educational bodies—comprising representatives from vocational schools, universities, and the Ministry of Education—to embed plant doctor training into formal educational curricula. While these engagements have laid a strong foundation, advocacy remains an ongoing effort requiring sustained dialogue with policymakers, resource mobilization, and strategic alignment with national agricultural development plans to secure long-term government support for plant clinics.

Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to assess the performance, provide evidence of outcomes and impact, and evaluate the cost-effectiveness of both plant clinic operations and complementary extension approaches

Establishing a robust MEL system to assess the performance, outcomes, and cost-effectiveness of plant clinic operations and complementary extension approaches is a critical ongoing effort. Recognizing that the sustainability of these initiatives hinges on demonstrating their success, the project has made significant strides in initiating this work by integrating MEL priorities into annual milestones, ensuring that evidence generation remains central to decision-making and advocacy efforts. Key achievements include streamlining reporting mechanisms to capture the effectiveness of both plant clinics and complementary advisory approaches. While these initial steps provide a strong basis, MEL remains an ongoing process that requires continuous refinement, data validation, and stakeholder engagement to ensure meaningful insights throughout the project.

Pilot the revised curriculum in a select number of ITABs to test the curriculum, gather feedback, and make necessary adjustments

The preparatory phase for piloting the revised plant doctor training curriculum in ITABs was successfully completed in 2024. This phase involved engagement with agricultural education bodies, a structured review and planning process, and the development of seven training guides tailored for ITABs. These efforts ensured that the curriculum aligned with national education standards and existing vocational training programs. The project also facilitated discussions with key stakeholders, including universities, ITAB representatives, and the Ministry of Education, to establish a clear roadmap for the pilot phase. These preparatory steps lay the foundation for the full-scale piloting of the revised curriculum in 2025, where the effectiveness of the training approach will be assessed, feedback gathered, and refinements made to enhance its relevance and impact. This progress demonstrates a proactive commitment to integrating plant doctor training into formal education systems, strengthening local capacity for sustainable plant health advisory services.

Provide technical support and training to plant doctors, including refresher courses to keep advisors up to date with current pest management techniques and troubleshoot data collection issues

To ensure that plant doctors remain well-equipped with up-to-date pest management techniques and data collection best practices, PlantwisePlus Burundi has prioritized continuous technical support and training as an ongoing activity. A key achievement in initiating this work in 2024 was the successful implementation of six cluster meetings, engaging 260 plant doctors and supervisors in structured discussions on plant clinic performance, service quality, and knowledge sharing. These meetings reinforced accountability and provided a platform for identifying areas where refresher training and technical troubleshooting are needed. By mobilizing key actors in the plant health system, aligning plant clinic operations with evidence-based decision-making, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement, the project has laid a strong foundation for sustained quality assurance. This ongoing support seeks to address emerging pest challenges, strengthen data collection practices, and enhance the effectiveness of plant clinic services for farmers in Burundi.

Establish quality assurance mechanisms to improve and sustain the standards of plant clinic services

In 2024, PlantwisePlus Burundi made significant strides in establishing quality assurance mechanisms to enhance and sustain the standards of plant clinic services. This ongoing effort, integrated into the MEL framework, has been driven by stakeholder engagement to define key benchmarks and performance targets. Through consultations with plant health authorities, extension services, and plant doctors, the project has facilitated a shared understanding of quality standards and accountability measures. Key activities have included developing performance benchmarks, enhancing data collection and analysis processes, and providing targeted technical support to ensure consistency in service delivery. As this initiative evolves, PlantwisePlus Burundi remains committed to refining quality standards, institutionalizing best practices, and strengthening the long-term sustainability of plant clinics through continued stakeholder collaboration and adaptive learning.

Collaborate with various non-state actors for scale-up, leveraging expertise and resources, and knowledge sharing

PlantwisePlus Burundi has actively engaged with various non-state actors, including One Acre Fund (OAF), IFDC, and other key stakeholders, to explore opportunities for scaling up interventions, leveraging external expertise, and integrating third-party decision-support tools. These engagements have facilitated knowledge exchange, resource mobilization, and alignment of efforts to enhance plant health advisory services. While this activity was originally planned for 2025, significant progress has already been made in establishing partnerships and outlining concrete collaboration plans, setting a strong foundation for future implementation.

Conduct survey to assess Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of plant doctors regarding gender-sensitive service provision and use survey findings to tailor awareness campaigns and training programs

The project has made significant progress in assessing the KAP of plant doctors regarding gender-sensitive service provision, surpassing initial plans by launching this activity in 2024—a year ahead of schedule. Recognizing the project team's enhanced capacity and deep understanding of the plant health system, the decision was made to conduct the assessment internally rather than outsource it, ensuring a nuanced and contextually relevant approach. The project team successfully collected data from 205 plant doctors, evaluating their understanding, perspectives, and behaviours related to providing gender-responsive advisory services to both men and women farmers. Despite challenges in achieving equal representation of male and female plant doctors, a hybrid data collection approach combining group and individual techniques proved effective. As this is an ongoing effort, the team is now focused on analysing the data and finalizing the report by March 2025, ensuring timely validation and dissemination of findings.

Collaborate with DPV in conducting horizon scanning and a national pest risk assessment, identifying potential threats to plant health and assessing the likelihood of pests entering, establishing, and spreading within Burundi

In collaboration with DPV, significant strides were made in horizon scanning and in conducting a national pest risk assessment to identify potential plant health threats. Utilizing CABI's Horizon Scanning Tool (HST), an initial list of 8,747 potential pests was generated and systematically refined through a three-stage process, narrowing the focus to 1,791 species relevant to major Burundian value chains. This exercise exceeded expectations by providing a comprehensive risk assessment, leading to concrete recommendations for proactive pest management. A rapid risk assessment conducted by 29 subject matter experts from national and international institutions evaluated these species based on their likelihood of entry, establishment, and potential socio-economic and environmental impacts. As a result, 489 species were recommended for inclusion in Burundi's regulated pest list, while surveillance was advised for 346 species. Additionally, actions such as contingency planning, publicity, and research were identified. This collaboration with DPV strengthens Burundi's capacity to anticipate, monitor, and respond to emerging pest threats, ensuring a more resilient and well-informed plant health system.

Support DPV in maintaining and updating a list of regulated pests, classifying them according to their potential impact and pathways of introduction

PlantwisePlus Burundi has made significant progress in supporting DPV in updating Burundi's list of regulated pests, an activity initially planned for 2025 but successfully initiated in 2024. As part of the national pest risk assessment, a comprehensive horizon scanning exercise identified 489 species recommended for inclusion in Burundi's regulated pest list. These species were classified based on their potential impact and pathways of introduction, distinguishing between quarantine pests, regulated non-quarantine pests, and those requiring surveillance. The classification process involved rigorous expert evaluation to ensure alignment with international phytosanitary standards while addressing Burundi's specific agricultural priorities. While substantial progress has been made, the work remains ongoing and will culminate in the official publication of the updated regulated pest list.

Prioritize pests that have the most significant impact on agriculture, ecosystems, and local communities

PlantwisePlus Burundi is actively prioritizing pests that pose the most significant threats to agriculture, ecosystems, and local communities through an integrated, evidence-based approach. This ongoing process leverages multiple data sources and expert assessments to ensure that pest management efforts are targeted and effective. Insights from plant clinic data provide real-time evidence of the pests most frequently affecting farmers, while classical

biological control research identifies sustainable, lower-risk management options. The comprehensive horizon scanning exercise further strengthens this prioritization by systematically evaluating potential pest threats and their likelihood of introduction, establishment, and spread. Additionally, pesticide risk reduction efforts contribute by identifying pest challenges that drive excessive chemical pesticide use, highlighting the need for alternative management strategies. By synthesizing these diverse inputs, PlantwisePlus Burundi is contributing to the refinement of national pest priorities and the development of targeted intervention strategies to mitigate their impact. This dynamic and evolving process ensures that pest management efforts remain responsive to emerging threats, while supporting sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural systems in Burundi.

Conduct in-depth research to collect data on the biological, economic, and socio-economic impacts of prioritized pests. Generate evidence-based reports presenting the findings in a clear, accessible, and actionable format

The project is actively conducting in-depth research to assess the biological, economic, and socio-economic impacts of prioritized pests, ensuring that pest management strategies are informed by solid evidence. As part of this effort, the project responded proactively to the emerging threat of MMB by conducting a rapid farm household survey despite the activity having been initially planned for 2025. Data were collected from 550 farmers across three provinces. The study highlighted significant yield losses of 35-45%, translating to an estimated annual economic loss of US$ 690 million. These findings offer crucial insights for developing targeted awareness campaigns and policy recommendations to mitigate the impact of MMB. This research underscores the project's commitment to generating timely and actionable evidence to strengthen Burundi's plant health system and support farmers in effectively managing key agricultural threats.

Initiated but delayed activities

Explore physical co-location of plant clinics within existing extension service centres or offices, enabling farmers to conveniently access both types of services in one place.

PlantwisePlus Burundi has initiated efforts to explore the physical co-location of plant clinics within existing extension service centres or offices to enhance farmers' access to advisory services in a more integrated manner. Potential locations have already been identified, reflecting initial progress in this activity. However, further engagement with stakeholders is necessary to ensure long-term sustainability, a shared vision, and institutional buy-in. Achieving alignment among key actors—such as government and local authorities—has required extensive discussions to clarify roles, operational modalities, and resource commitments. These deliberations, while essential for ensuring a well-structured and enduring model, have slowed momentum. Despite these challenges, the commitment remains strong to foster a collaborative framework that will enable plant clinics to be seamlessly embedded within Burundi's extension network, ultimately improving service delivery to farmers.

Utilize the Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool to identify both the strengths and weaknesses in integrating gender within the national extension system's service provision. This information will guide and prioritize gender-focused interventions

The project had planned to utilize the Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool (GRAST) to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses in integrating gender within the national extension system's service provision. Originally, this work was earmarked for outsourcing to an external consultant; however, after internal discussions, it was determined that the project team was well-positioned to lead the assessment, leveraging their in-depth understanding of the extension landscape. Additionally, there was recognition that the project may already possess substantial relevant data or could build upon work conducted by other partners, thereby reducing the need for duplication. Given these considerations, priority was given to the KAP assessment of plant doctors on gender-sensitive service provision, which was seen as a more immediate and actionable step. As discussions on the best approach to the gender and rural advisory services assessment have now been concluded, the project will revisit its implementation, ensuring it aligns with ongoing gender-focused initiatives while avoiding duplication.

Planned but not initiated activities

Support development of tailormade extension messages suitable for mass extension campaigns and based on the identified topics

The development of tailor-made extension messages for mass extension campaigns is a crucial activity aimed at ensuring that farmers receive targeted, relevant, and practical advisory content. However, this activity has been delayed as it is directly dependent on the prioritization of plant health problems, which requires a comprehensive analysis of multiple data sources. Specifically, insights from plant clinic data, findings from the horizon scanning exercise, and outcomes of assessing stakeholders' KAP and challenges in plant protection are essential for identifying the most pressing plant health challenges that extension messaging should address. As these key processes had not been finalized by the close of 2024, the development of extension messages could not proceed as originally planned. Once the prioritization process is completed, the project will move forward with designing evidence-based, impactful extension materials to support large-scale awareness campaigns.

Collaborate with regulatory agencies to steer the registration and approval processes required for the release and use of identified biological control agents

The planned collaboration with regulatory agencies to facilitate the registration and approval processes for the release and use of identified BCAs is a critical step in promoting safer, sustainable pest management solutions in Burundi. However, this activity has not yet commenced due to capacity challenges within the regulatory body, which must first be addressed to ensure an efficient and effective registration process. Recognizing this gap, the project has initiated engagements with DPV to assess and support capacity-strengthening efforts. These preliminary discussions will help lay the groundwork for future collaboration, ensuring that regulatory systems are adequately equipped to handle the approval of BCAs in a timely and rigorous manner.

Implement robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess and raise awareness about the impact of BCAs on crop yields, pest populations, and environmental sustainability

The implementation of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess and raise awareness about the impact of BCAs on crop yields, pest populations, and environmental sustainability is a key priority for the project. However, this activity was not initiated in 2024 due to the short implementation period available. Given the complexity of BCA deployment and the need for systematic data collection, this work requires careful planning and alignment with broader BCA-related interventions. As the project moves into 2025, the focus will shift towards launching these monitoring efforts in tandem with the commencement of BCA-related activities, ensuring that impact assessments are integrated from the outset to generate valuable evidence for scaling up sustainable pest management solutions.

Collaboration and Partnerships in PlantwisePlus Burundi

The success of PlantwisePlus Burundi in 2024 was significantly underpinned by the collaboration and partnerships established during its predecessor project, Plantwise Burundi (2020-2023). As before, ISABU continues to play a central role as the National Responsible Organization, providing local expertise and infrastructure, as well as ensuring the smooth execution of all project activities. Demonstrating its commitment to the project, ISABU has seconded a scientist to the national CABI team, underscoring the institution's recognition of the project's value to Burundi's agricultural sector. This strong collaborative foundation continues to be crucial for tailoring the project's interventions to the specific needs and context of Burundi's agricultural landscape.

The collaboration across the project's partner network continues to be multifaceted:

- Partners actively participated in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of project activities. For instance, the rapid farm household survey to generate crucial data on the prevalence and economic impact of MMB and bottlenecks study for lower-risk plant protection involved collaborative data collection and analysis. DPV's and ABREVPA's local expertise was vital for understanding the local context and contributing to the focus group discussions and interviews.
- Regular meetings, workshops, and communication channels facilitated the exchange of knowledge and best practices. The review and planning meeting for integrating plant doctor training exemplified this, bringing together diverse expertise, including Bureau d'Etudes et des Curricula de l'Enseignement Post Fondamental Technique et de la Formation Professionnelle (BECEPTFP), ITAB, academic institutions, and the Ministry of Education, for discussions leading to agreement on concrete steps in integrating plant doctor training into formal education.
- Partners contributed their expertise, facilities, and networks to enhance project delivery. The collaborative effort involving DPV and other local and CABI experts in identifying and assessing new and emerging pests showcased the effectiveness of combining local knowledge with global expertise. Bureau Provinciale de L'Environnement, de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage (BPEAE)'s involvement in the running of plant clinics through their extension staff, trained as plant doctors, was crucial for the running of plant clinics.
- The reinstallation and restructuring of the national steering committee and national forum (governance instruments used during Plantwise Burundi) have strengthened coordination and representation across the partner network, ensuring alignment with project objectives. This enhanced governance structure provides a platform for strategic decision-making, fostering deeper collaboration among key stakeholders in advancing the goals of PlantwisePlus Burundi.

Analytical Overview of Progress

This section provides an overview of the project's progress in achieving results during the initial implementation period following the project's commencement in August 2024. Given the short timeframe (4 months), the focus is primarily on output-level indicators, where activities have been implemented, while progress toward outcome and impact indicators will become more evident in subsequent years. Although no specific targets were set for 2024, the activities undertaken during this period have contributed to the achievement of the project's life-of-project targets.

The analysis is structured into two parts:

- **Progress on project-specific indicators** – This examines progress on key indicators that align with the project's overall objectives. It highlights the targets set for the project's duration and the results achieved in 2024 against the overall project MEL plan.
- **Progress on DGIS-specific indicators** – This focuses on indicators defined by the project's donor. It assesses performance against these indicators and ensures alignment with donor expectations.

Tracking progress against these indicators is essential for assessing the effectiveness of implementation and guiding future actions. The results presented here are based on data collected through the project's MEL framework. By systematically monitoring outputs and early outcomes, the project ensures accountability, identifies emerging trends, and adapts strategies to maximize impact.

Progress on project indicators

As detailed in **Annex 2**, progress has been categorized using a traffic light system to reflect the status of monitoring and reporting. Given that 2024 was primarily focused on establishing baseline data, refining indicators, and setting up tracking mechanisms, progress varies across different indicators. While some output indicators show measurable results, impact and outcome indicators require more time before assessment.

To ensure a structured analysis, progress on project indicators is categorized into four groups: Indicators on track, Indicators with an established baseline and ongoing monitoring, Indicators requiring attention, and Indicators not yet applicable in 2024. This classification provides a clear assessment of contributions toward the project's overall targets.

Indicators on track

Number of pests assessed for risks through horizon scanning

In 2024, PlantwisePlus Burundi made significant progress in assessing pest risks through horizon scanning, with 1,791 pests evaluated within the year, surpassing the project's target of 1,200 pests. This achievement reflects the strong interest in and uptake of horizon scanning tool and expert-driven assessments in the country, reinforcing its role in identifying and managing emerging pest risks in Burundi.

Indicators with an established baseline and ongoing monitoring

Number of smallholder farmers provided with advice

In 2024, a total of 26,736 farmers received advisory services through the plant clinic network, demonstrating strong engagement despite the 7-month project lull. A study conducted to assess the full extent of farmer reach through the plant clinic network revealed that approximately 8,600 queries were handled between September and December 2024. Notably, about 20% of farmers received advice through the PlantwisePlus' Data Collection App (electronic prescription form), 41% via paper prescription forms, and 39% were advised without a recorded prescription form. Plant clinics situated in high-traffic areas, such as agricultural markets, reached approximately 34% more farmers than those based in local agricultural offices. It should be noted that only records captured electronically had data disaggregated by gender and age.

- **Gender disaggregation:** Among the data captured electronically in POMS, gender disaggregation of these records revealed that male farmers accounted for 71% of the queries, while female farmers contributed 28%, with 1% of the queries lacking gender information. This highlights a gender disparity in access to plant clinic services, with men accounting for the majority of recorded consultations.
- **Age disaggregation:** Age-disaggregated data from electronic records of plant clinic services showed that most farmer queries (96%) were from adult farmers, while 2% came from elderly farmers. Notably, only 1% of the queries were from young farmers, highlighting a significant gap in youth engagement with plant clinics. Additionally, 2% of queries had unrecorded age data.

These figures specifically capture outreach through physical plant clinics and do not include farmers reached via complementary mechanisms, such as ongoing digital advisory campaigns, including the Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) campaign with Auxfin.

Number of plant clinics running

In 2024, 121 plant clinics remained operational, ensuring continued service delivery despite a 7-month project lull. The strong engagement of plant doctors (230 out of 238) running these clinics highlights the commitment and resilience within the network. With the baseline established, monitoring efforts will focus on tracking service expansion and optimizing clinic operations to enhance farmer reach.

Number of people trained in plant doctor and other modules

In 2024, 260 plant doctors and plant clinic supervisors participated in refresher training through cluster meetings, reinforcing their knowledge and skills. As this group had been previously trained and accounted for in earlier reports, the focus was on continuous capacity strengthening rather than expanding the number of trained individuals. Monitoring remains underway to assess the effectiveness of these refresher sessions in enhancing advisory service delivery. Moving forward, efforts will focus on expanding training outreach and institutionalizing learning through formal education frameworks.

Number of stakeholders trained in gender approaches

In 2024, 205 plant doctors participated in a KAP assessment on gender-sensitive service provision. This assessment provided critical insights into gender disparities in agricultural advisory services, informing the refinement of future gender-responsive interventions. While no new stakeholders were trained, monitoring efforts continue to ensure the effective application of gender approaches in service delivery.

Number of classical biocontrol agent species released

In 2024, an appraisal of the rearing facility for parasitoid wasps and their hosts was conducted. This assessment evaluated infrastructure, equipment, technician competency, and operational readiness. Additionally, key invasive pests were identified. While no classical biocontrol agents were formally released during this period, the groundwork laid in 2024 has defined the focus for future releases by ensuring operational readiness and defining target pests. Monitoring efforts will continue to track progress toward the release of biocontrol agents.

Number of climate-adapted tools utilized to assess pest risks

In 2024, pest risk assessment activities focused on the continued use of CABI's HST. The use of HST in 2024 has strengthened the foundation for pest risk analysis. This ongoing monitoring process is essential for guiding the integration of additional tools to enhance pest risk assessment in future project phases, including pest risk registers.

Number of people trained in using the climate-adapted tool to assess pest risks

In 2024, a total of 29 subject matter experts were trained in the use of the HST to assess pest risks before conducting the horizon scanning assessment. The trainees, specializing in various plant health fields were drawn from regulatory agencies (ABREVPA, la Direction Générale de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage, de la Vulgarisation et de la Mobilisation pour l'Auto Développement - DGAEVMA, DPV, and l'Office National de Contrôle et de Certification des Semences - ONCCS), national research institutions (ISABU), international agricultural organizations (CABI and FAO), academia (Université du Burundi, Université Lumière de Bujumbura, and Université de Ngozi), and extension institutions (Direction de Vulgarisation, Formation, Recherche et Développement - DVFRD). This training has enhanced national capacity for pest risk assessment and laid a foundation for continued use of the tool in future monitoring efforts.

Number of evidence reports and datasets on biological and socio-economic impacts of prioritized pests produced and disseminated

In 2024, the project advanced data collection and analysis efforts towards generating evidence reports and datasets on the biological and socio-economic impacts of prioritized pests in 2025. A rapid survey on MMB was conducted, and data collection was completed. These activities have established a strong foundation for evidence-based pest management solutions in Burundi.

Indicators not yet applicable in 2024

Several indicators are not yet applicable in 2024 due to their measurement timelines, as detailed in **Annex 2**. Impact and outcome indicators require sustained project implementation before measurable results can be assessed, as they track long-term changes. Additionally, some indicators are linked to 2025/2026 targets, with their measurement scheduled according to project milestones set for those years. While these indicators are not yet measurable, the groundwork laid in 2024—including data collection, capacity-building, and intervention activities—ensures a strong foundation for future assessments.

Progress on donor-specific indicators

In addition to the project's core indicators, PlantwisePlus Burundi is committed to tracking and contributing to donor-specific indicators. This alignment ensures that project activities effectively support broader strategic objectives while strengthening accountability to the funding partner.

In 2024, the project prioritized developing a framework for measuring progress against DGIS-specific indicators whilst establishing baseline values to support future monitoring and evaluation. Since most of these indicators are at the outcome level, measurable results will take time to materialize. Consequently, it is still too early to assess progress on most of these indicators, which are detailed in **Annex 3**.

Targets have now been set for 2025, whilst in 2024, the focus was on data collection and baseline establishment. Some output-level indicators showed measurable progress, including the number of small-scale food producers directly reached with activities aimed at structural/systemic improvement of their agricultural performance.

Additionally, certain indicators are linked to project milestones set for 2025 and 2026, with their measurement scheduled accordingly. These include the number of hectares of small-scale food producers' farmland directly reached with activities aimed at temporary/partial improvement of agro-ecological sustainability.

While full assessments of donor-specific indicators are not yet possible, the groundwork laid in 2024—through data collection, capacity-building, and intervention activities—ensures the project is well-positioned to track progress in the coming years.

Alignment with Project Objectives and Indicators

Project activities and results in 2024 have been fully aligned with its Theory of Change (ToC) (**Figure 1**), which defines how targeted interventions will address critical challenges in Burundi's agricultural sector. The need to sustain the plant clinic network and ensure the continuous flow of plant health data, raise awareness about hazardous pesticides and promote lower-risk alternatives, and strengthen the country's phytosanitary capacity are at the core of the project's design and implementation. Activities in 2024 corresponded to the three interlinked pathways—enhancing access to agricultural advisory services, reducing crop protection risks, and strengthening phytosanitary services—ensuring the project delivers support to smallholder farmers in adopting sustainable crop production practices. This integrated approach is essential for building a resilient and productive agricultural sector while safeguarding human health, the environment, and trade.

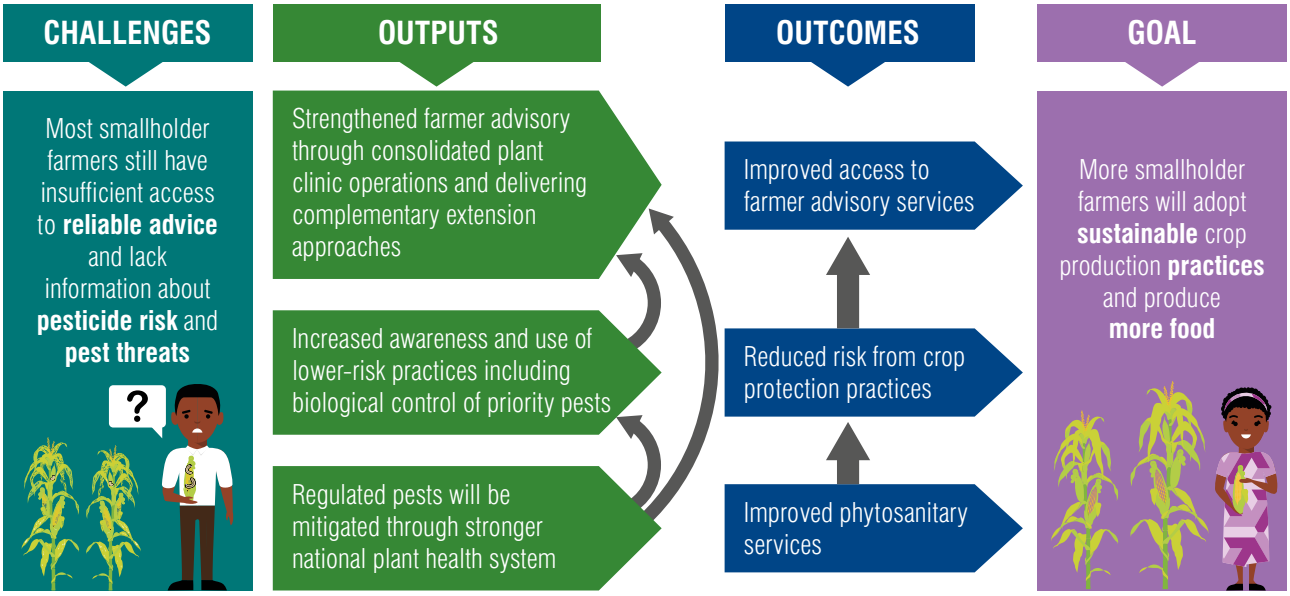


Figure 1

Despite a seven-month gap between Plantwise Burundi and the start of PlantwisePlus Burundi, which temporarily slowed momentum, the continuity of certain key activities—particularly plant clinics—demonstrates promising signs of sustainability and local ownership of the farmer advisory approach being consolidated in the current project. A remarkable number of plant doctors remained engaged and continued to provide advisory services to farmers, even in the absence of project funding, opportunities for refresher training, or self-learning (e.g., through organised plant doctor cluster meetings). This is a good foundation for the institutionalization of plant clinic operations within the agricultural advisory system, integrating them further into Burundi's national agricultural extension system.

Moving forward, efforts will focus on regaining momentum of farmer advisory implementation whilst strengthening coordination among stakeholders and expanding outreach on pesticide risk reduction and phytosanitary capacity building to deliver the ToC in full.

Recommendations for future programming and improvements

PlantwisePlus Burundi (including its ToC) has been designed as a 7-year project, running until 2030, and CABI will seek advice from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) on the next steps towards securing funding commitments towards full delivery of the project. In addition, CABI will seek opportunities for affiliate project activities (e.g. through the anticipated IFAD-PARM initiative) or other potential new developments by EU Delegation or otherwise.

At the same time, CABI is seeking collaboration with other EKN partners, including IFDC, OAF, World Food Programme, etc, so that already during the current project phase until 2026, there will be leverage of other ongoing EKN investments into Burundian agriculture.

The activities and results undertaken by the project in 2024, as well as its lessons learned, show that, for now, the project is on course without need for improving on the 2025-2026 plans. At the same time, the project's ongoing MEL approach will continue to assess progress and identify areas for improvement.

Toward the end of 2025, terms of reference will be developed for an external evaluation mission scheduled for 2026. The findings from this evaluation will help refine the design and implementation of the final phase of PlantwisePlus Burundi (2027-2030).

Risk Management and Evolution of Risks

Risk management is central to the project's implementation, ensuring that challenges are anticipated and mitigated to sustain progress. Over the past year, several risks identified in the project proposal have been encountered, necessitating adaptive strategies to minimize their impact. Additionally, new risks have emerged, necessitating further adjustments to implementation approaches.

One of the most significant challenges encountered was fuel shortage, which severely disrupted transportation and logistics, leading to increased operational costs. In response, the project adjusted its activity scheduling to optimize fuel use and collaborated with partners to establish shared transport arrangements, thereby mitigating the impact.

Another anticipated risk was the delay in establishing new partnerships necessary for scaling activities. Bureaucratic processes and shifting institutional priorities contributed to these delays, slowing the formalization of collaborations. To address this, the project intensified engagement with key stakeholders, leveraging existing relationships to accelerate formalization while adjusting timelines to allow for phased collaboration.

In addition to these anticipated risks, new challenges emerged in 2024. One of the most pressing was the difficulty in finding qualified consultants for specialized tasks. This resulted in delays in critical activities initially planned for external experts. To mitigate this challenge, the project adapted by reallocating tasks to in-house technical teams (e.g., assessing stakeholders' KAP and challenges in plant protection) or through targeted advertising of tenders, combined with allowing more response time (e.g., documentary production).

Unfortunately, the short timeline of the current contract (less than 2.5 years) has posed significant challenges for the planned onboarding of MSc and PhD students, limiting their ability to contribute to key research components. In response, the project is exploring more flexible arrangements, such as integrating project-related research topics into ongoing academic programs.

An emerging risk includes the current geopolitical tensions in the Great Lakes region, fuelled by the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition, there is the ongoing shift in donor priorities, which is likely to affect continued funding. To mitigate these risks, the project is adopting scenario-based planning, ensuring flexibility in implementation strategies, and maintaining proactive engagement with the donor to align priorities and sustain support. **Annex 4** provides an updated risk analysis table, with a comprehensive overview of the project's risk landscape.

Despite these challenges, the project has demonstrated resilience, maintaining momentum through adaptive strategies. Continuous risk assessment and mitigation remain key to ensuring that implementation stays on track while safeguarding the project's long-term objectives.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

MEL activities in 2024 were instrumental in informing project activities, ensuring alignment with objectives, and generating critical insights to guide decision-making. The focus of MEL efforts was threefold: refining project indicators, developing a comprehensive MEL plan, and generating baseline data for the project.

A key aspect of this work involved aligning project indicators with those set for the simultaneously ongoing PlantwisePlus programme at the global level, ensuring consistency in measurement across different countries. Additionally, the MEL framework was designed to facilitate cross-learning between PlantwisePlus countries, creating opportunities to share best practices, lessons learned, and innovations in monitoring progress and evaluating impact. These efforts strengthen not only the Burundi project's effectiveness but also contribute to the broader global evidence base on improving farmer advisory services and plant health systems.

At the onset of a project, establishing a well-defined MEL framework is crucial for tracking progress, measuring impact, and ensuring accountability to stakeholders, including donors. The refinement of project indicators, particularly donor-aligned indicators, was a priority to ensure that data collection accurately reflects the project's contributions toward intended outcomes. The development of the MEL plan has provided a structured approach to monitoring and evaluation, defining data collection methodologies, reporting timelines, and learning loops for adaptive management. The generation of baseline data was particularly essential for newly introduced components, allowing the project to set benchmarks against which progress and impact can be measured.

Several major studies were conducted in 2024 to generate robust evidence to inform project strategies once reports become available in 2025. These studies were designed and implemented in partnership with national stakeholders, following advice and approval by CABI's ethical review board:

- **KAP assessment of plant doctors on gender-sensitive service provision** – This study assessed plant doctors' perspectives and capacity regarding gender-sensitive service provision, providing insights into gaps and opportunities for enhancing equitable access to agricultural advisory services. Early findings indicate that while plant doctors recognize the importance of gender-inclusive approaches, further training is required to effectively translate this awareness into appropriate action.
- **Assessment of stakeholders' KAP and challenges in plant protection** – This study identified key barriers preventing stakeholders, including smallholder farmers, consumers, and agro-dealers, from transitioning to safer pest management alternatives. Findings highlighted the role of limited awareness, access constraints, and economic considerations in shaping farmers' choices. These insights will guide the design of targeted awareness campaigns and interventions to promote the adoption of safer alternatives.
- **Rapid farm household survey on the prevalence and economic impact of the invasive pest, MMB** – Recognizing the growing threat posed by MMB, the project undertook a rapid assessment to quantify the pest's spread and economic burden on affected farmers. The results provided critical data to inform pest management strategies, informing national response efforts.

Beyond these studies, plant doctor cluster meetings were conducted, bringing together all active plant doctors to share experiences, discuss challenges, and strengthen their capacity. These meetings reinforced peer learning and generated qualitative insights into how plant clinics support farmers on the ground.

Insights from MEL activities have already led to some finetuning of planned project activities. The findings from the KAP assessment of plant doctors on gender-sensitive service provision, for instance, underscored the need for enhanced training modules on gender-responsive extension services. Similarly, the assessment of stakeholders' KAP and challenges in plant protection will inform the project's engagement strategy with stakeholders in 2025, ensuring that interventions address real adoption barriers.

As the project progresses, MEL efforts will continue to be integral in guiding adaptations, improving effectiveness, and ensuring that interventions are evidence-based and responsive to the needs of smallholder farmers.

Visibility in 2024

In 2024, the PlantwisePlus Burundi project made significant strides in enhancing its visibility and outreach, ensuring that key stakeholders, including donors, government agencies, and farming communities, were well-informed about the project's objectives, progress, and impact. A combination of strategic participation in high-profile events, content creation, and media engagement contributed to raising awareness of the project's role in strengthening Burundi's agricultural sector.

Participation in Key Events

The project was prominently featured in several high-level events, reinforcing its alignment with national agricultural priorities:

- **Donor open door event** – The project actively participated in this event, showcasing the work funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The exhibition highlighted key achievements, including the strengthening of plant clinic networks. The event provided a platform for direct engagement with stakeholders, demonstrating the tangible impact of the donor's support.
- **Round table for the mobilization of financing for Burundi's Vision 2040/2060** – The project was represented in discussions aimed at securing investment to support Burundi's long-term development vision. Engagement in this round table was an opportunity to position PlantwisePlus within the country's broader agricultural transformation agenda, emphasizing its contributions to food security, trade, and climate resilience.

Digital and Print Visibility

A range of blog posts, reports, and publications were produced throughout 2024 to document project activities, share lessons learned, and highlight success stories. The project website was built and incorporated into the global PlantwisePlus website: www.cabi.org/plantwiseplus/countries/burundi/

- Blog Posts: Several articles were published, covering key topics. These communication materials serve to inform a broad audience about the project's activities and their impact on farmers and communities.
  - Plantwise programme made considerable progress to help strengthen plant health systems in Burundi
  - CABI attends presidential round table to highlight help for Burundi's smallholder farmers to increase food security
  - Ambassadorial visit serves to help strengthen greater sustainable agriculture in Burundi
- Publications: The project also contributed to reports and technical publications, disseminating research findings and best practices to inform policy and practice in the agricultural sector.
  - Plantwise Burundi Annual report 2023
  - Plantwise Burundi final report

Multimedia Engagement

Visual storytelling can play a crucial role in capturing the essence of the project's activities and making them accessible to diverse audiences.

- **A video documenting the approach and impact of Plantwise Burundi** was commissioned in 2024. While still in production, this video will serve as a powerful tool for advocacy and knowledge sharing upon completion in 2025.

Communication Strategy Development

Recognizing the importance of structured and sustained communication, the project initiated the development of a comprehensive communication strategy in 2024. This strategy, set for completion in 2025, will guide messaging, stakeholder engagement, and dissemination channels to maximize the project's reach and influence.

As the project moves forward, visibility efforts will continue to play a crucial role in fostering stakeholder buy-in, ensuring greater adoption of project interventions, and strengthening partnerships for long-term sustainability

Annex 1:
Progress Status of 2024 Activities

Annex 1: Progress Status of 2024 Activities

The updated project Gantt chart below illustrates the original implementation plan for activities (**dark blue** = full or major implementation; **medium blue** = partial implementation; **light blue** = not to be implemented without additional funding commitments). An additional column has been included to reflect progress up to the end of 2024, using a traffic light color-coding system to categorize progress. Additionally, achievement symbols (✓ for overachieved, ✗ for underachieved) indicate whether an activity exceeded or fell short of expectations.

1	**Completed Activities** – Activities that were fully implemented, achieving the intended outputs.	
2	**Ongoing Activities** – Activities that were initiated and are in progress, with partial implementation or phased execution.	
3	**Initiated but Delayed Activities** – Activities that started but faced delays due to external or internal factors, requiring timeline adjustments.	
4	**Planned but Not Initiated** – Activities that were scheduled for 2024 but could not commence due to specific constraints (e.g. staffing, partnerships).	

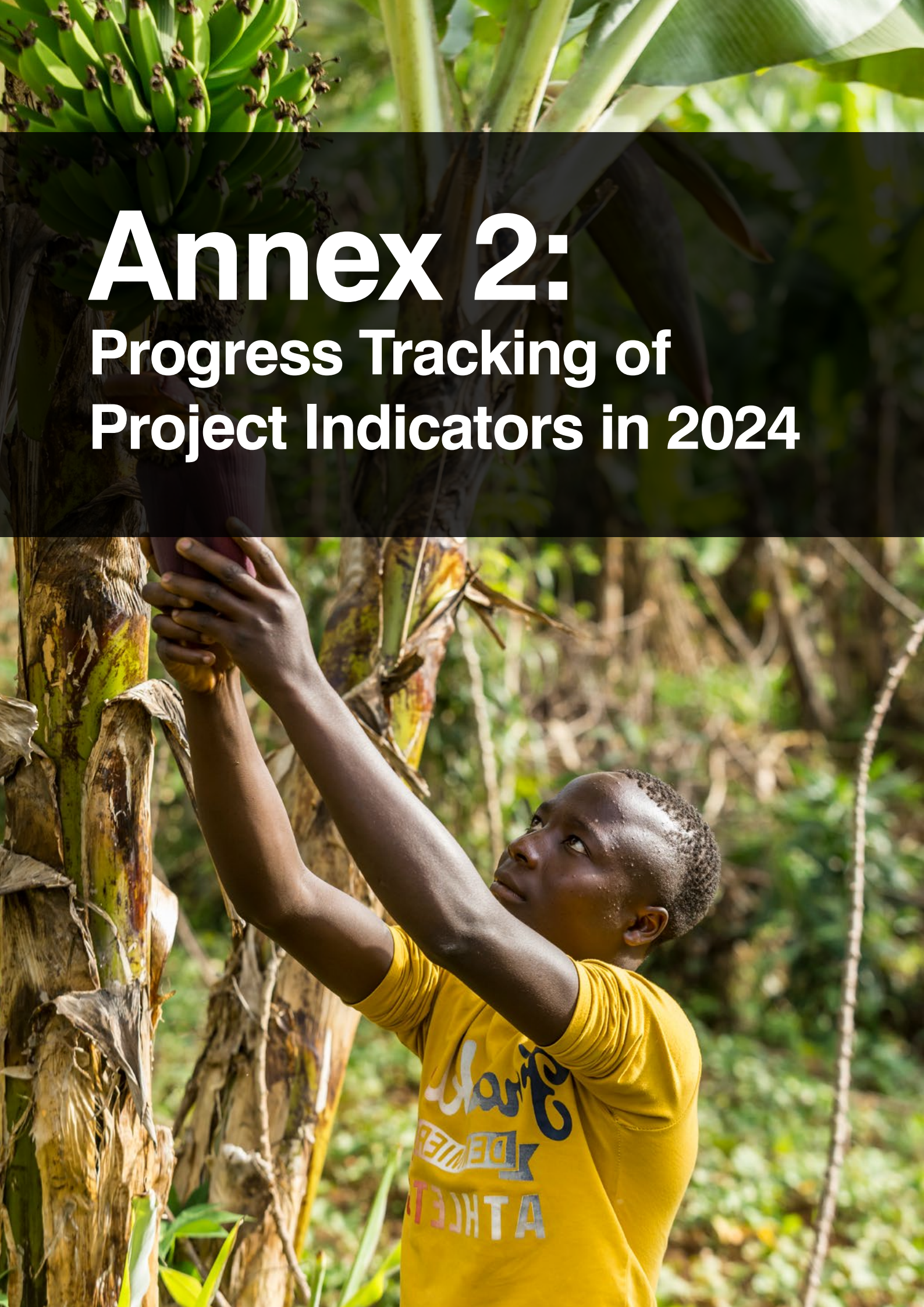
Description	2024		2025	2026
	Plan	Progress		
Outcome 1: Improved access to farmer agricultural advisory services				
Output 1.1: Consolidated plant clinics operations				
Activity 1.1.1: Integrate plant clinic operations into broader agricultural extension services				
Advocate for government funding mechanisms and supportive policies that recognize and support the role of plant clinics in the country's agricultural development				
Explore physical co-location of plant clinics within existing extension service centres or offices (e.g., bureaux communales) enabling farmers to conveniently access both types of services in one place		✗		
Explore collaborations with farmer groups and cooperatives to facilitate the uptake of plant clinic services				
Collaborate with government departments to integrate plant clinic data and information, enhancing the utilization and analysis of plant clinic data for evidence-driven decision-making in agriculture				
Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to assess the performance, provide evidence of outcomes and impact, and evaluate the cost-effectiveness of both plant clinic operations and complementary extension approaches				
Activity 1.1.2: Integrate plant doctor training into formal education curricula				
Pilot the revised curriculum in a select number of ITABs to test the curriculum, gather feedback, and make necessary adjustments				
Train teachers and instructors in the new curriculum and methodologies, ensuring they have the requisite knowledge and skills to deliver the plant doctor training effectively				
Scale up the revised curriculum to more ITABs while establishing a mechanism for quality assurance, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure that the revised curriculum is achieving its aims and making necessary improvements				
Advocate for the inclusion of plant doctor training in national education policies and strategies to ensure its long-term sustainability				

Activity 1.1.3: Backstop plant clinic network operations				
Provide technical support and training to plant doctors, including refresher courses to keep advisors up-to-date with current pest management techniques and troubleshoot data collection issues				
Establish quality assurance mechanisms (e.g., plant doctor self-assessments and plant clinic data validation) to improve and sustain the standards of plant clinic services		✓		
Facilitate effective information sharing and communication among plant doctors within the network, including through use of digital platforms (such as mobile apps) for sharing best practices.				
Collaborate with various non-state actors (incl. NGOs, international organizations) for scale-up, leveraging expertise and resources (such as third-party decision-support tools), and knowledge sharing		✓		
Output 1.2: Increased awareness of gender-sensitive agricultural advisory services achieved				
Activity 1.2.1: Carry out comprehensive gender analysis and capacity building initiative				
Utilize the Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool (GRAST) to identify both the strengths and weaknesses in integrating gender within the national extension system's service provision. This information will guide and prioritize gender-focused interventions		✗		
Conduct survey to assess Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) of plant doctors regarding gender-sensitive service provision and use survey findings to tailor awareness campaigns and training programs		✓		
Activity 1.2.2: Enhance gender-inclusive engagement and knowledge exchange				
Develop gender-sensitive resources (tailored for extension and plant clinics) and gender-responsive communication strategies for awareness campaigns to increase inclusivity of plant clinic services				
Promote knowledge exchange and peer learning among women farmers and men through community-based networks that are affiliated to plant clinics to shift social norms on women's access to plant health services				
Entrench gender-sensitive indicators to advance monitoring and evaluation of plant clinic operations with a gender-sensitive approach		✓		
Output 1.3: Complementary extension approaches delivered				
Activity 1.3.1: Train relevant stakeholders on the principles and practices of mass extension campaign approaches				
Utilizing plant clinic records, identify relevant topics and appropriate mass extension campaign strategies to disseminate plant health-related messages at scale		✓		
Support development of tailormade extension messages suitable for mass extension campaigns and based on the identified topics		✗		
Using the principles of social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), pilot and implement mass extension campaigns				
Activity 1.3.2: Initiate and integrate additional innovative extension methodologies through a pilot program				
Pilot an integrated advisory approach encompassing both plant and animal health within the framework of "One Health"				
Utilize digital tools and technology to disseminate information relating to complementary extension approaches; create digital resources available to diverse stakeholders; and leverage messaging platforms and social media to reach a wider audience				

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: Identify bottlenecks in transitioning to low-risk plant protection practices				
Conduct surveys and interviews with relevant stakeholders to gather their insights into their current plant protection knowledge, attitudes, practices and challenges		✓		
Carry out field assessments and observations, documenting pesticide use, application methods, and pest management strategies in practice				
Analyse data collected from surveys, interviews, and field assessments to identify adverse effects associated with existing plant protection practices				
Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment, evaluating options to reduce risk of current plant protection practices, including alternative options to current high-risk practices				
Activity 2.1.2: Develop information materials on low-risk plant protection practices				
Develop information materials based on the identified current practice and analyse potential safer options				
Enhance the capacity of agrodealers to be aware of and stock safer products and personal protective equipment				
Activity 2.1.3: Sensitize stakeholders of the benefits of adopting low–risk practices				
Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop action plans to address barriers hindering the adoption of low-risk plant protection practices				
Implement capacity-building and training programs for relevant stakeholders, focusing on providing the skills and knowledge useful for effective adoption and implementation of low-risk plant protection practices				
Launch sensitization and awareness campaigns (incl. social and behaviour change communication) targeted at relevant stakeholders, educating them about the benefits of low-risk plant protection practices				
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 difficult-to-manage pests in a target crop or agricultural system for which classical BCAs can be effective in the local context		✓		
Collaborate with regulatory agencies to steer the registration and approval processes required for the release and use of identified BCAs		✗		
Rear or mass produce BCAs for field application, including providing technical support to local staff involved in BCA rearing				
Raise farmers' awareness and establish distribution channels for BCAs, providing guidance on proper application, and offering technical support				
Implement robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess and raise awareness about the impact of BCAs on crop yields, pest populations, and environmental sustainability		✗		
Activity 2.2.2: Support initiatives that focus on testing and promotion of bioprotection products suited for local farming systems and pest pressures				

Support Burundi in aligning its biopesticide registration process with regional (East African Community) harmonized guidelines				
Using the CABI BioProtection Portal (BPP), raise stakeholders' awareness regarding the utilization of bioprotection products in the region, and explore inclusion of Burundi into the portal				
Facilitate efficacy testing and introduction of biopesticides for key pests of priority crops				
Facilitate access to quality BCAs by engaging bioprotection manufacturers to register and/or introduce augmentative biological control agents identified as commercially viable				
Implement robust M&E mechanisms to assess the cost effectiveness of biopesticide adoption				
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				
Conduct a comprehensive market assessment to identify specific crop protection services and enterprises that have demand within the local agricultural context				
Conduct gender analysis to understand barriers for young women and men to participate and benefit in agribusiness, and develop activities to address barriers				
Engage farmers, agricultural cooperatives, and relevant agricultural organizations to understand their preferences and needs for crop protection services				
Design and test business models with selected partners for low-risk crop protection service provision (e.g. spray service, biocontrol application) to groups of smallholder farmers				
Activity 2.3.2: Equip young people and women with skills and knowledge for various low-risk crop protection services				
Establish partnerships and linkages for social capital building and facilitate youth access to farmers (market for the services) within/through cooperatives, farmers associations etc				
Implement gender-relevant training for youth to become IPM champions and pest management application providers (e.g. spray gangs trained in safe use, clean planting material production, etc)				
Provide technical backstopping to low-risk crop protection services				
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				
Facilitate continuous training and professional development opportunities to keep staff of diagnostic laboratories updated on the latest diagnostic techniques				
Support implementation of a quality management system (QMS) based on ISO 17025 standards to ensure accuracy and reliability of laboratory results				
Facilitate collaboration with other diagnostic laboratories and phytosanitary agencies both nationally and regionally				
Activity 3.1.2: Support development and implementation of appropriate phytosanitary measures on regulated pests				

Collaborate on the development of phytosanitary protocols, outlining procedures for pest detection, identification, monitoring, containment, and control.				
Linking to plant clinic network, facilitate training programs for government officials, inspectors, and other stakeholders focusing on pest identification, surveillance methods, and proper implementation of phytosanitary measures				
Facilitate access to online phytosanitary resources such as e-learning modules and interactive tools for continuous learning (e.g. COLEAD, FAO resources)				
Enhance the expertise of regulatory bodies (DPV, ONCCS), local universities, research institutions (ISABU), and extension services (BPEAE) in phytosanitary knowledge and practices by organizing exchange visits and supporting the establishment of a community of practice				
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				
Collaborate with DPV (NPPO) in conducting horizon scanning and a national pest risk assessment, identifying potential threats to plant health and assessing the likelihood of pests entering, establishing, and spreading within Burundi		✓		
Support DPV in maintaining and updating a list of regulated pests, classifying them according to their potential impact and pathways of introduction (e.g., quarantine pests, regulated non-quarantine pests)		✓		
Support pest monitoring and surveillance program for detecting priority pests, including through the use of plant clinic data and plant doctor observations				
Activity 3.2.2: Produce evidence reports on biological and socio-economic impact of prioritized pests				
Prioritize pests that have the most significant impact on agriculture, ecosystems, and local communities				
Conduct in-depth research to collect data on the biological, economic, and socio-economic impacts of prioritized pests. Generate evidence-based reports presenting the findings in a clear, accessible, and actionable format				
Raise awareness about the severity of pest impact and advocate evidence-based policy recommendations				
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				
Facilitate development of preventive measures to reduce the risk of introduction of high priority pest (e.g., phytosanitary inspections, and border controls)				
Support development of contingency plans and protocols for responding to incursions and pest outbreaks				
Promote collaboration with neighbouring countries for information sharing, harmonization of pest management efforts, and prevention of transboundary pest spread				
Activity 3.3.2: Implement management plans for priority pests				
Facilitate development and dissemination through, among others, plant clinics and complementary extension approaches, of gender-sensitive, IPM-based, and climate smart management plans				
Conduct targeted and gender focused awareness campaigns to educate stakeholders about priority pests, their impacts, and the necessity for effective pest management				



Annex 2:
Progress Tracking of Project Indicators in 2024

Annex 2: Progress Tracking of Project Indicators in 2024

The following table presents the updated results based on project indicators, incorporating baselines and an additional column titled “Indicator Tracking in 2024” to reflect progress in monitoring and reporting.

It is important to note that no specific targets were set for 2024, as the focus was on establishing baseline data, refining project indicators, and setting up MEL structures. In addition:

- 2024 was a very short implementation period, as the project only commenced in August 2024
- It is too early to assess impact and outcome indicators, as these require more time before measurable results can be observed.
- Some output indicators had expected results, and progress on these has been captured accordingly.
- The farmer reach figures presented are likely to be an underestimate, as they do not factor in farmer-to-farmer information sharing. Based on previous studies in multiple other PlantwisePlus countries, farmers typically share information with up to five others. However, due to the relatively small farming population in Burundi and the high risk of double counting, a conservative approach is adopted in PlantwisePlus Burundi.

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 2024	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 2024, and the corresponding status based on the above categorization.

Impact	Description	Indicator	* Disag.	Baseline – 2024	2024		2025	2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
					Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	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	93,326	**240,000**
			M	56,595	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
		Number of smallholder farmers reporting increased income	F	32,189	-		20,000	39,732	**144,000**
			M	52,079	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
		Number of smallholders whose livelihood became more resilient to shocks, including climate shocks	F	6,508	-		22,000	44,770	**84,000**
			M	10,722	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
		Number of hectares of land under IPM practices, including biocontrol or biopesticides, supporting climate resilience	NA	2,244	7,219		20,000	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	2024		2025	2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
					Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	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	247,727	**600,000**
			M	152,468	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
		Number of farmers adopting sustainable crop production practices	F	80,333	-		16,000	31,762	**240,000**
			M	111,905	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
		Number of women accessing agricultural advisory services	NA	113,280	-		42,000	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	351,025	**800,000**
			M	160,695	18,983				
			<35	Unknown	-				
		Number of plant clinics running	NA	121	121		171	236	**236**
		Number of people trained in plant doctor and other modules	F	29	-		100	189	**600**
			M	282	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
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	572	**1,500**
			M	418	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
Output 1.3: Complementary extension approaches delivered	Complementary extension approaches delivered	Number of complementary extension approaches piloted	NA	2	-		1	1	**4**

Impact	Description	Indicator	* Disag.	Baseline – 2024	2024		2025	2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
					Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	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	74,759	**150,000**
			M	20,670	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
		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	Unknown	-				
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	**2**
		Number of augmentative biocontrol solutions selected for testing	NA	0	-		1	1	**2**
		Number of augmentative biocontrol solutions released	NA	0	-		-	1	**1**

Impact	Description	Indicator	* Disag.	Baseline – 2024	2024		2025	2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
					Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	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	NA	0	-		1	4	**5**
		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	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	2024		2025	2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
					Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	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	3	**4**
		Number of phytosanitary measures developed	NA	0	-		1	1	**2**
		Number of staff trained in phytosanitary measures and protocols	F	2	-		10	10	**30**
			M	8	-				
			<35	0	-				
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	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	20	**30**
			M	0	25				
			<35	Unknown	0				
		National risk register updated	NA	0	-		-	1	**1**
		Number of pests assessed for risk through PRA	NA	0	0		5	10	**15**

Impact	Description	Indicator	* Disag.	Baseline – 2024	2024		2025	2026	** Life of Project target (LOP)
					Achieved	Indicator Tracking	Target	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	1	**2**
		Number of evidence reports and datasets on biological and socio-economic impacts of prioritized pests produced and disseminated	NA	0	-		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 2024

Annex 3: Progress on Donor-Specific Indicator Tracking in 2024

The following table presents the updated results for donor-specific indicators, incorporating an additional column on the Status of Indicator Tracking in 2024.

It is important to note that 2024 was a very short implementation period, as the project only commenced in August 2024. As a result:

- It is too early to assess outcome indicators, as it requires more time before measurable results can be observed.
- Some output indicators had expected results, and progress on these has been captured accordingly.
- The farmer reach figures presented are likely to be an underestimate, as they do not factor in farmer-to-farmer information sharing. Based on previous studies in multiple other PlantwisePlus countries, farmers typically share information with up to five others. However, due to the relatively small farming population in Burundi and the high risk of double counting, a conservative approach is adopted in PlantwisePlus Burundi.

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 2024	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	** Disaggregation	Baseline-2024	2024		Annual Targets		*** Life of project Achieved (LOP)
					Achieved	Indicator tracking	2025	2026	
Outcome	B.1.1. Number of small-scale food producers who progressively realize a living income	B.1.a	Female	32,189	-		20,000	39,732	**144,000**
			Male	52,079	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
	B.1.2. Number of small-scale food producers who progressively decrease the yield gap	B.1.b	Female	40,079	-		50,000	93,326	**240,000**
			Male	56,595	-				
			<35	Unknown					
	B.1.3.Number of female small-scale food producers who progressively became more empowered	B.1.c	Female	101,952	-		52,000	78,000	**224,200**
			<35	Unknown	-				
	B.1.4.Number of small-scale food producers whose livelihood became more resilient to shocks	B.2	Female	536	-		3,200	4,800	**9,700**
			Male	1,164	-				
			<35	Unknown					
	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	242,700	**720,000**
			Male	144,625	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
	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	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	1	**2**

Result level	Indicator	* FNS ID	** Disaggregation	Baseline-2024	2024		Annual Targets		*** Life of project Achieved (LOP)
					Achieved	Indicator tracking	2025	2026	
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	20,000	**70,000**
			Male	5,691	18,983				
			<35	Unknown	267				
	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	24,000	**71,000**
			Male	18,598	-				
			<35	Unknown	-				
	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	80,000	**100,000**
	3. To what extent does the activity contribute to the result area Improving the enabling environment for FNS	NA	NA						
	D.0. Improvements towards desired changes, transitions or transformations in food systems	NA	NA						

*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 2024)

Annex 4: Risk overview (updated December 2024)

*The sections highlighted 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	Prioritise 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 the 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 / organisations 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
Connectivity issues prevent access to and use of digital tools	4	3	12	Deploy offline versions of digital tools and ensure multiple formats for training products.	2x2 = 4
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 to mitigate delays and adjust project timelines as 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
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 in 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
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 organisations that would own the proposed services or products. Agree on an appropriate business plan with relevant stakeholders. Ensure that sufficient training, practice, and support are 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 to fill key positions, helping to 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 expenditures. Rectify budgets through reforecasting processes throughout implementation period.	4x1 = 4
Lack of management accountability over project expenditure	3	3	9	Produce monthly accounting reports that explain 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 undermine 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 the 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's 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 recognise 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 what is necessary, and data sets are anonymized and stored with restricted access. All research involving human subjects requires Ethical Review Board approval.	4x2 = 8


CABI

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:

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

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