

**Beneficiary**

Horticulture sector in Rwanda

**Led by**

MSU and partners, the Bureau of Standards, the Horticultural Development Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, and WBG

**Time-frame**

May 2007 – May 2009

**STDF funding**

US\$589,845 (total project value US\$642,545)

## EXPANDING HORIZONS FOR SAFE HORTICULTURAL EXPORTS FROM RWANDA

### The safe trade gap

Rwanda's horticulture sector was growing thanks to a favourable climate and supply of labour in the country. However, producers and traders in the sector faced multiple barriers to accessing regional and international markets. There was a lack of domestic and international confidence that fruits, vegetables and flowers from Rwanda were free from pests and diseases, safe for human health and safe for the environment. Without a national system of inspections and certification in place, meeting international phytosanitary standards to help boost exports was out of reach.

### Partnership approach

Driving efforts to set up a strong SPS management system in the country were the Bureau of Standards and the Rwanda Horticultural Development Authority in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources. The project was rolled out by MSU, and supported by WBG. Joint decision-making and coordination among government authorities, agencies and stakeholders across the sector helped to streamline intergovernmental policies on horticultural exports. A fresh public-private partnership led on national phytosanitary activities, including drafting legislation, developing an SPS action plan for the horticulture sector and taking forward training modules to build know-how.

### Results

- Thanks to the project, Rwanda signed up to the IPPC, establishing the country as an important part of the international phytosanitary community.
- A National Plant Protection Organization was set up to manage and operate a phytosanitary certification system to support the safe exports of plants and plant products.
- A plant protection and agrochemicals law was drafted to effectively control pests and set up a sustainable national phytosanitary structure.
- An SPS horticultural action plan developed under the project is being used by the National Agriculture Export Development Board to carry out horticultural activities.
- The project raised awareness and increased the knowledge base in the sector. Training for officials, technicians and private operators focused on horticultural phytosanitary issues, Good Agricultural Practices, integrated pest management and surveillance.

### Sustaining impact

- Rwandan horticultural and phytosanitary authorities are continuing to use the institutional structures and national action plans that were developed under the project.
- Following the project, other technical assistance projects, including by the Belgian Development Agency and WBG, have sustained efforts to improve plant health and food safety in the horticultural sector.
- Building on the project's foundation, new legislation on plant health protection was passed by Parliament in 2016 to boost strategies and measures to control plant pests and diseases. This includes issuing phytosanitary certificates and inspections by the competent authority.

*“A customized capacity building programme strengthened the institutional phytosanitary framework. This resulted in improved export certification, and better use and control of agrochemicals, helping us to develop safe horticulture exports. The outcome was a gradual drop in reports of non-compliance with EU requirements”.*

**Vianney Kabera,  
Rwanda Horticulture  
Exporters  
Association**

Find out more  
[standardsfacility.org/](http://standardsfacility.org/)  
PG-145