

**Ref: EPRN/ED/152/2021 Kigali, October 05th, 2021**

**Permanent Secretary**

**Ministry of Trade and Industry**

**Kigali, Rwanda**

Dear PS,

**RE: Invitation to a policy dialogue Agribusiness/Agro-Enterprises Development in Rwanda**

The Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN) in collaboration with the Oxfam in Rwanda*;* are organizing a joint **policy dialogue on Agribusiness/Agro-Enterprises Development in Rwanda with special focus on Horticulture value chains –Opportunities and Challenges** in Rwanda. The dialogue is scheduled on **November 17th, 2021, 9am online through ZOOM**. The dialogue is expected to attract more than 100 participants from government institutions, development partners, CSOs, media, private sector (chamber of agriculture), NCCR Horticulture Federation and individuals working in area of Agribusiness/Horticulture value chain.

The purpose of the national virtual dialogue is to raise awareness on existing opportunities in the Agribusiness sub-sector with focus on horticulture value chains and recognize the challenges to the sector development; with the aim of finding workable multi-stakeholder solutions and call upon all stakeholders to play their respective roles.

We kindly invite you or your representative to attend this dialogue through the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/91254317350?pwd=dzMrQUNvaUU2ZlZqMVVvTkRHMEtKZz09>. Meeting ID: 912 5431 7350. Passcode: 714249.

Attached is a concept note and tentative agenda for your easier reference. For further details or confirmation to attend, kindly write to us through email: [info@eprnrwanda.org](mailto:info@eprnrwanda.org) OR call Aline/EPRN:0781631943 OR Marie Gorettie/Oxfam: 0788833582.

Sincerely,



**CC:**

* Immaculee Mukampabuka, Country Director (Interim), OXFAM

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**Stakeholders’ Engagement/National Dialogue**

**Theme: AGRIBUSINESS/AGRO-ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT IN HORTICULTURE VALUE CHAIN -OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN RWANDA**

# INTRODUCTION

Oxfam was physically established in Rwanda in the 1980s, although prior to that in the 1960s, had funded the work of partner organizations within the country. Oxfam has a wealth of experience running diverse programs in Rwanda – from peacebuilding and reconciliation, to **innovative livelihoods initiatives that promote enterprise and value chain development.** Oxfam is a partner-led, knowledge based and influencing organization and known for its pioneering work, as well as its insightful, sensitive analysis and advocacy at national, regional and global levels.

Oxfam’s reputation and expertise in Rwanda puts it in a strong position to take forward a strategy that contributes to its overall vision – a just Rwanda without poverty – and to stage interventions in line with its mission – to **ensure that poor men, women and youth enjoy equal rights and benefit from fair and inclusive development**.

Oxfam’s Sustainable Livelihoods Programme is one of the pillars of Oxfam Rwanda Programme that aims at helping thousands of marginalized small holder farmers and small businesses through **inclusive market systems** that generate income and job opportunities especially for women and youth. To achieve its mission, Through the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme, Oxfam in Rwanda implements the **Enterprise Development Programme** that is part of a global initiative that **supports and invests in small rural businesses focusing on Agriculture value chain to help them grow and become commercially viable with the major target of creating sustainable market access for small holder farmers.**

# Background to Agribusiness/Agro-enterprises in Rwanda

Agriculture has been a historical mainstay of Rwanda’s economy. Contributing almost one-third of Rwanda’s GDP and employing approximately 65.5 percent of the country’s working population,(LFS,2020) it remains a key sector in Rwanda’s efforts to foster private sector development.

Agriculture is a priority sector in Rwanda’s Vision 2050 national development strategy. The government aims to replace subsistence farming with monetized and technology-intensive commercial agriculture and agro-processing by 2050.

Agro-processing in Rwanda is a flourishing sector that is a major source of employment and income, thus providing access to food and other necessities to large groups of the population. Rwanda has suitable agro-climatic conditions that allow the production of a broad range of diverse agricultural commodities suitable for processing.

Despite the overall Rwandan economic growth, there are still challenges to Agro-SMEs related to business management skills, fragmented supply, poor infrastructure (i.e. logistics), limited access to finance, costly standards requirements, Access to regional and international market among others.

# Purpose and Specific Objectives of the National Dialogue

The purpose of the national dialogue is to raise awareness on existing opportunities in the Agribusiness /Agro-processing sub-sector with focus on Horticulture value chain and recognize the challenges to the sub-sector development; with the aim of finding workable multi-stakeholder solutions and call upon all stakeholders to play their respective roles.

Specifically, the National Dialogue will provide a platform for:

* Discussing on and taking stock of existing and potential opportunities in Agribusiness/enterprises sub-sector with special focus on Horticulture (this include investment opportunities as well as available support by Government and other stakeholders)
* Discussing about challenges within the sub-sector (access to finance, quality/standard compliance issues, packaging, access to int’l markets…)
* Sharing experiences on tested solutions/models that are working in favor of agro-enterprises and market inclusivity; and
* Devising workable solutions in the context of Rwanda and way to collaboratively implement them in stakeholders’ respective settings.

# Participants

Participants will come from line ministries (MINAGRI, MINICOM), government institutions (RDB, NAEB, RSB, REMA,NIRDA) development partners, CSOs, media, private sector (chamber of agriculture), NCCR farmers unions/federations and individuals working in area of Agribusiness.

# Methodology

This dialogue is organized virtually using Zoom platform. The dialogue will be as interactive as possible, in a mix of panel discussions and experience sharing. More details are found in the agenda below.

# Date

The stakeholder’s engagement meeting will take place on Wednesdayay 17th November 2021 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am on Zoom link to be shared as the date approaches.

**Agenda**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Session** | **When** | **Time** | **Moderator** | | **Agenda** |
| **Welcome and Context Setting** | 9h00 – 9h05 | 5 mins | **EPRN** | | **Introduction of participants**  In the chat, sharing:  - Name, position and Organization |
| **Introduction of the Conversation:** | 9h05 – 9h10 | 5 mins | **EPRN** | | Sharing about the Meeting objectives, ways of working and logistics. |
| **Welcome remarks** | 9h10 – 9h15 | 5 min | **CD OXFAM** | | Country Director OXFAM or/and External moderator |
| **Opening remarks** | 9H15-9H20 | 5min | **PS/MINAGRI (TBC)** | |  |
| **SESSION 1: PRESENTATION ON BACKGROUNG OF THE AGRI-BUSINESS/PROCESSING SECTOR/OPPORTUNITIES FOCUSING ON HORTICULTURE VALUE CHAIN** | | | | | |
| Overview of Agri-business sub- sector with focus on horticulture value chain in Rwanda available opportunities | 9h20 – 9h30 | 10 min | **Alice/MINAGRI** | | **Agro-enterprises/processing in horticulture value chain overview and available investment opportunities +available government support to the sector development +identified challenges** |
| **SESSION 2: INTRODUCTION TO OXFAM’S ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM(EDP)** | | | | | |
| EDP presentation of aim and key achievements | 9h30 – 9h40 | 3 min | | **Marie Gorettie** | Introduction to EDP program+ summary of key achievements |
| 7 min | | Testimonies on EDP impact through video |
| **SESSION 3: PANNEL DISCUSSION** | | | | | |
| **Panel 1**/ PSF and entrepreneurs panel discussion | 9h40 –10H05 | 25min | | **Moderator/EPRN** | PSF/Chamber of agriculture, NCCR/Horticulture federation , Individual entrepreneurs, AFR |
| Q&A | 10h05-10H15 | 10min | | **Moderator/EPRN** | All participants |
| **Panel 2**/Government institutions; available support opportunities for agri-business development in their respective institutions | 10H15-10h-35 | 20 min | | **Moderator/EPRN** | MINICOM, RDB, NAEB, RSB/NIRDA |
| Q&A | 10H35-10H50 | 15min | | **Moderator/EPRN** | All participants |
| Presentation of recommendation and way forward | 10h50-10h55 | 5mins | | **EPRN** |  |
| CONCLUDING remarks | 10h55 -11h00 | 5 min | | **OXFAM CD** |  |