



Embassy of the United States of America Bujumbura, Burundi

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PRESS RELEASE

On June 13, U.S. Ambassador Dawn Liberi signed two grant agreements totaling \$274,000 USD to support and promote agricultural development in the provinces of Cibitoke and Karusi. The grants are funded by the United States African Development Foundation.

As an agency of the United States government, the African Development Foundation has promoted economic growth and supported marginalized populations and local communities in Africa for over thirty two years. The Foundation's unique participatory approach actively engages marginalized community groups in the design and implementation of social enterprises and small businesses that increase livelihoods and generate sustainable business outcomes.

USADF's African-led and -managed on the ground presence builds local capacity while addressing the needs of local communities. This gives Africans greater participation in and ownership of the development process, helping to ensure that the vast majority of projects create sustainable economic opportunity, building lasting solutions to combat poverty. USADF has been active in Burundi since 2008 responding to priority economic development needs as expressed by the Burundians themselves. To date, nearly 50 grants have been awarded, primarily for small-holder agricultural initiatives, for a total value of \$3.7 million.

Additionally, USADF has provided funds to local NGOs to serve as its technical partner in Burundi assisting groups as they implement their projects. In a short amount of time, the Foundation has helped build successful companies such as Fruito and Fruitropic that have potential to go beyond Burundi and enter the EAC market. Support for Agro-Biotec is making disease-free banana plantlets available to farmers at low cost and USADF's support for microfinance organizations such as CECM, enable farmers in Bubanza to access much-needed credit.

Funding provided to the Iteka Kuri Bose based in Rugombo Commune, Cibitoke, will allow the association to expand its membership and give members new technical skills and modern agricultural techniques to improve the productivity of their tomato harvests to help them combat poverty and food insecurity. They will also receive training to strengthen the organization and governance of the association, and learn how to improve profits by consolidating harvests and selling directly to larger markets.

The funding provided to Ishaka de Buhiga Farmer Association from the province of Karusi will enable them to build on their previous success from a USADF grant in 2009 by increasing production of seed potatoes and transitioning from selling fresh and dry maize to processing

maize flour. The grant will also enable the cooperative to begin raising Friesian cows to increase milk production in their local community.