

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



THE PRIME MINISTER

Keynote address by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister

Dr. Edouard Ngirente

**At the launch ceremony of the Agricultural Policy Analysis and
Capacity Development Program.**

Lemigo Hotel, December 6th, 2019

- **Honourable Ministers,**
- **Dr. Shenggen Fan, Director General of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI),**
- **Mr. Nicola Bellomo, European Union Ambassador to Rwanda,**
- **Development partners,**
- **Heads of Government Institutions,**
- **Distinguished guests,**

Good afternoon,

1. Today, I am pleased to join you at this important ceremony of launching the Agricultural Policy Analysis and Capacity Development Program. The inauguration of this program is a result of collaborative efforts between the Government of Rwanda and IFPRI.
2. I would like first to commend the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), under the leadership of Dr. Shenggen Fan, for the strong partnership with Rwanda.

The launch of this Program, which aims at enhancing capacity for evidence-based policy and capacity development, is yet another indicator of your commitment towards ending hunger and malnutrition.

3. Back in May 2019, IFPRI launched its “Global Food Policy Report 2019” here in Rwanda. The Government of Rwanda still commends this report with its evidenced-based facts, showing the urgency of rural revitalization in order to sustain food security in rural areas.

4. Under the compact2025, an initiative for ending hunger and under-nutrition by 2025, Rwanda, as one of the focal countries of this initiative, in collaboration with IFPRI, worked together with different stakeholders to set priorities and identify action gaps.

One of the actions identified was to set up a program that can provide the country with evidence-based policy research and capacity development in Agriculture sector. It is thanks to this productive collaboration that we are launching this program today.

5. The successful implementation of this Rwandan Program will be very instrumental for our country in achieving the SDG number 2. As you know, this goal seeks solutions to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
6. This program will also complement our efforts in accelerating progress in ending hunger and malnutrition. Our aim is to ensure that all Rwandans achieve their full potential as healthy and productive members of our society.

Distinguished guests,

7. As you know, in our National Transformation Strategy NST1 2017-2024, the Agriculture sector is projected to grow at an average rate of 5.7% per year. Last year of 2018, it increased by 6 percent, contributing 1.6 percentage points to the overall GDP growth rate.

The agriculture sector is therefore an important driver in Rwanda's transformation from a low-income to a knowledge-based and middle-income economy.

- 8.** To accelerate the implementation of the agricultural agenda set forth in NST1 (2017-2024), in 2018, the Government of Rwanda adopted the fourth Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation (PSTA 4).

The PSTA 4 aims at transforming Rwanda's agriculture from a subsistence sector to a knowledge-based value creating sector. This will contribute to the national economy and ensure food and nutrition security.

The PSTA 4's successful implementation requires collaboration between various stakeholders and partners, alignment of programs and investment, as well as mutual review and accountability mechanisms.

- 9.** We are pleased that the Agricultural Policy Analysis and Capacity Development Program was developed in this spirit of partnership. We are also confident that it will achieve its targets. This is evidenced by IFRPI's vast experience over the years in implementing similar programs in various countries.

Distinguished guests,

10. As I conclude, I would like to thank once again IFPRI leadership and the European Union for partnering with us in implementing our agricultural transformation agenda and for its continued collaboration in our development journey.

11. On this note, I hereby declare the program officially launched.

I thank you for your kind attention.