



Local Competitiveness Facility in Rwanda

Banana – processing in Gisagara

Grant for private sector in Rwanda

Through the cooperation of Belgium and Rwanda, the LCF grant fund (worth €2.4 million) has been implemented in 4 pilot Districts - Gakenke, Gisagara, Rutsiro and Nyagatare - in Rwanda.

The objective of LCF is to fund innovative economic partnership projects implemented by different companies or cooperatives, which will enhance pro-poor local economic development (LED).

After a thorough selection process for which 497 projects initially applied, 36 projects have been selected for support. The projects are unique and developed by the partnerships, according to their own needs.

During the upcoming year, each project will receive financial support as well as capacity building on business management and marketing in order to secure sustainable growth of their businesses.

Gisagara District is home to **Inyamamare Ltd**, a banana processing unit, making a local banana beer. The unit is among 20 first banana processors which were awarded the S-Mark by the Rwanda Standards Board. Together with 1 other partner they are currently implementing an LCF project.

The project will receive a total budget of **RwF 27.055.378** which will be used for the extension of the banana plantation of the partner, as well as buying improved machines and equipment for the banana-processing plant. Improved hygienic standards, and improved packaging, should also help the company to increase their sales. Further, they will also start selling banana juice, in addition to the three types of banana beer currently on market with the brand name of Inyamamare meaning “the famous”.

The unit employs about one hundred low income workers, mostly women(63%), who can gain their lives and pay their medical insurance among other needs. Most important, the units serves as outlet to about a 1000 tons of local banana production per year. Through the LCF funding increased employment in the plant will be created, and also the banana producers will have an increased market for their primary product.

