

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT THEMATIC AREA**

Rural Development refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic wellbeing of people living in relatively isolated areas and sparsely populated areas. The recent integrated house hold living conditions survey ( EICV 3) indicate that in the last five years there has been a leap in the standard of living of Rwandan people where by improvement can be observed in the most of the key indicators which support the overall poverty results.

The results show that reduction in poverty at National level by 12%, which is estimated to be at 44.9% nationally with 22.1% in urban areas and 48.7% in rural areas. Extreme poverty has also fallen from 40% to 24% which is a substantial reduction over the recent five years.

Poverty in Rwanda will not decline without growth in rural incomes, and rural incomes will not grow without improving productivity of agriculture sector and growth of rural non-farm business. Rural development requires an integrated approach, and encompasses many other line sectors and initiatives. It draws on and involves other policies and strategies.

The required actions for a successful rural development include creation of policies and strategies that encourage private investment in rural enterprises and complementary business.

If rural economy supporting infrastructure and social services are to be strengthened an integrated and holistic development approach is needed. Integration of sector strategies and District Development Plans linkages are vital in fighting of poverty reduction.

### **The overall objective of Rural Development Thematic Area**

The overall objective is to provide strategic framework that will facilitate the co-coordinated implementation of sector strategies and District Development Plans and create a development environment that will contribute or enable rural communities and households achieving sustainable livelihoods. In this respect Rural Development Thematic Area will identify short and medium term priorities that will support the goal of creating better quality of life for all Rwandans.

**Rural Development Thematic Area should focus on the following questions if Rwanda wants to achieve below 30% poverty reduction and reduction of extreme poverty by 15% in the next five years.**

## **Accelerated modernization of agriculture**

### **Includes modernizing, diversifying and commercialization**

- How do we ensure sustainability of agriculture production?
- How do we ensure increased value addition and higher productivity translates into income for farmers and faster reduction of poverty?
- How do we encourage more investment in the area of livestock and poultry development for food security?
- What should be done to minimize production and distribution risks associated with agriculture production including irrigation and post-harvest handling?
- How do we promote profitable irrigation infrastructure?

## **Natural resource Management and utilization**

- How can we ensure sustainable land management? How do we improve land use planning as a basis for improved environment management? Ensuring Water resource management and management of other natural resources for sustainable development.
- How to increase benefit from our green country/ example: room for carbon credits, tool for fund mobilization?

## **Sustainable Development of Human settlement**

- How can we promote sustainable and partially integrated development of human settlement to support social –economic development?
- How can we promote structural integrated urban development and development of low cost housing?
- Promote functional relationship between urban and rural development.
- How can we further promote the provision of better housing for the rural poor - especially imidugudu?
- How do we develop private and public partnership for better housing?

## **Electricity access**

- How can increase access to electricity for the Rwanda population? How can we promote use of hydropower with other sources of energy e.g Biomass in form of firewood charcoal and bio-waste as well as renewable energy sources (micro-hydro, solar, etc)?