Dear Readers,

This is the first Newsletter of 2019

The objectives and the format have not changed. We continue our effort to inform our readers of initiatives taken by Belgian organisations, and their Rwandan partners, in support of Rwandan development efforts. In this issue we also report on an initiative with the Rwandan diaspora in Belgium.

Over the last year, we witnessed an increase in interest from Belgian private companies in the Rwandan economy. In this issue we discuss another new initiative coming to Rwanda. OVO (“entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs”) will launch the first “Sustainable Technology for Africa contest” in Kigali. The Contest focuses on start-ups. The start-ups selected, will receive technical and managerial coaching and a small investment loan.

As Belgian actors, we are glad to be able to contribute to Rwanda’s fast economic and social transformation. We will regularly discuss one topic from this transformation agenda in more detail. In this issue we focus on citizen participation and accountability. Both can be considered pre-conditions for a successful development program: citizens must be able to express their concerns and expectations for any development program, they must be able to give feedback during the implementation, and they have to be confident that implementing partners use the resources judiciously. We asked a few of our partners in Rwanda to elaborate on their experience in this area.

At the Embassy we started the year with one innovation. As of Jan 15, travellers from Rwanda to Belgium and 19 other Schengen destinations can now apply for their visa at a modern and centrally located Visa Application Centre, launched by VFS Global on behalf of the Embassy of Belgium in Rwanda (link). The decision making and issuance of the visa remains a responsibility of the Embassy of Belgium.

Benoit Ryelandt, Ambassador

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UNDP has been supporting the Government of Rwanda through the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) and other partners in the area of accountability and inclusive participation in public and democratic processes. To ensure inclusive governance, the voice of the people is required to inform planning, budgeting and policy making. Considering the importance of service delivery for development at all levels, the Citizen Report Card (CRC) was introduced in 2010 to collect citizen’s feedback and assessment of the various services provided by local governments. It serves as a powerful tool for quality assurance and evaluation of whether service providers are fulfilling the commitments in their service charters. The outcome is used to assess progress made and to identify areas for improvement. The CRC is produced annually by the RGB. The primary-data survey involves questionnaires to interview individual heads of households as well as conducting community focus group discussions including service beneficiaries and service providers.

The CRC is not only a source of data but it contributes to local and national development processes. Specifically, it brings together all stakeholders to jointly review the district performance and, through that forum, hold accountable all parties involved in delivering services including civil society, the private sector, faith-based organizations and development partners as well as the public sector operating in that district. It helps to reinforce adhesion of stakeholders to the district development strategy and it informs their planning and prioritization processes. The CRC has also helped to instil a culture of competition between districts whose performance is now highlighted publicly. Of note, performance on the district service delivery targets set for each district accounts for 10% of the scores in the Imihigo (performance contracts for local officials). A key message which has come out of the CRC is that local governments must put stronger emphasis on implementing the District Development Strategies with a particular focus on the economic sector in order to reduce poverty and promote self-reliance.

UNDP promotes sustainable development by ensuring that the economic, social and environmental sectors are given due attention in planning, budgeting and implementation processes. As the CRC cuts across all these sectors and focuses on citizen input in development processes, it remains an important area of intervention for the UNDP Rwanda Country Programme 2018-2023. Furthermore, the Citizen Report Card (CRC) improves the level of understanding of citizens regarding their rights and obligations to demand and access quality services, hold accountable relevant duty bearers and ensure citizen centred development. Rights holders are empowered to not only enjoy their basic rights but also exercise all the other civil, economic, social and political rights. UNDP will also support research by non-state actors particularly in the area of governance to further promote evidence-based planning and policy making but also deepening accountability at all levels and stimulate continued policy dialogue and strategic engagement between all stakeholders - both rights holders as well as duty bearers. Under its new 5-year programme cycle, UNDP will work closely with national partners to further promote inclusive governance with a key emphasis on leaving no one behind. Specific measures will be taken to ensure that the voices of those at high risk of being left behind -including people with disabilities, people living in the poorest districts and, in some cases, women and youth - are better considered in development planning processes.

For more info, consult www.rw.undp.org

Follow @UNDPRwanda on Facebook and Twitter
How Concerned Citizen Committees “CCC”, TI-RW’s grassroots level volunteers, contribute to upward social accountability and the fight against corruption.

It is both the right and the responsibility of all citizens to hold other actors, such as government officials accountable. As provided by the Rwandan Decentralization policy, ordinary citizens should be involved in accountability mechanisms in an inclusive way. However, it is still a challenge to translate this policy in practice as documented by various surveys, among others the Rwanda Governance Score Card published by Rwanda Governance Board.

To fight corruption and promote transparent, accountable and efficient governance, TI-RW actively promotes citizen participation and empowerment as well as social mobilization. The idea to introduce the concept of the Concerned Citizen Committees (CCCs) in Rwanda by TI-RW came as a solution to trigger bottom up accountability and citizen’s empowerment in preventing and fighting corruption in Rwanda. CCCs are groups of citizens with a high degree of integrity, credibility, social acceptability, and leadership capacity to inform, motivate and mobilize citizens in challenging corruption and promoting integrity in service delivery at local level. In 2018, 368 volunteers were trained and they are active in 8 districts. The committees are elected by citizens during one of Rwanda’s home grown solutions, such as during the Citizens Assembly (Inteko z’abaturage) at cell level. CCC members receive the complaints of citizens, provide basic legal aid while collaborating with the five well established TI-RW districts offices and TI-RW head office which receive complaints from victims and witnesses of corruption under the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers project. Further, they raise citizens’ awareness about the fight against corruption and the role of citizens to hold local leaders accountable. One of the important tasks is also to support TI-RW in monitoring infrastructure projects as well as service delivery, through the Suggestion Boxes, at grassroots level.

CCCs significantly contributed to strengthening accountability and providing access to legal aid. In 2018, they received more than 2500 cases, which is 39% of all injustice cases received at TI-RW.

(Read further on the next page)
Through the CCC experience, TI-RW experienced more and more community engagement and an increasing interest in volunteering in the communities. Also CCC members see their influence on the fight against corruption and the importance of participating in local governance. A CCC member in Kamonyi said in December 2018: “So far we did not win the fight against corruption. But we achieved an important first step as we have eradicated injustice from our village!”

For more information, consult tirwanda.org or contact Nadège Nzyimana, Communication Officer, on nnadege@tirwanda.org or Apollinaire Mupiganyi, Executive Director, on amupiganyi@tirwanda.org

Follow @TI_Rwanda on Facebook and Twitter

Accountability and Citizen Participation

For 11.11.11 and our partner organisations worldwide, accountability and citizen participation have always been a crucial focus within our work.

Democracy is more than casting a vote every 5 or 7 years. For a democracy to work, critical citizens need to be able to hold their elected representatives accountable. Citizens need to be educated on their rights, on the political system, on the roles they can play. But also, and crucially, citizens need to be aware that their opinions, experiences, ideas are valuable and can contribute to their societies.

One of 11.11.11’s partners in Rwanda is Pax Press, a network of journalists aiming to promote democracy and good governance through coverage, analysis and reporting. The team of Pax Press understands the importance of citizen participation at all levels of governance. They therefore organise community debates between duty bearers and rights-holders, aiming to strengthen citizen’s participation in public policies, the formulation of programs and evaluation processes.

Last year, Pax Press organised a number of such community debates. Several topics were discussed: the parliamentary elections, gender, heritage rights, the family law, reconciliation, … to name but a few. During these events, citizens can address their worries, ideas, and feedback to a thematic expert and a representative of local government. The debate that follows is not only attended by several hundreds of onlookers, but is also broadcasted over several local radio’s, so that these debates reach a very large audience.

Pax Press actively seeks a gender and age balance in those who speak at the debate. This way, they prove to everyone participating (and listening at home) that women and youth also have a valid voice in their communities.

These well organised and well attended debates are important in solving local issues in a participatory and democratic way. They also show people that they have a voice, that their opinions count, that decision makers listen to citizens when they speak up in an organised and constructive way.

These debates, where emotions can run high but respect is always upheld, motivate people so much more to engage truly in and for their communities.

For more info, consult www.11.be and www.paxpress.rw or contact Remco Vanhauwermeiren, partner officer for Rwanda, on Remco.vanhauwermeiren@11.be — Follow @www11be on Facebook and Twitter
On the 18th of December 2018, the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) in partnership with the Belgian Embassy and Enabel launched the gender profiles in the Energy and Health Sectors, an event graced by different high government officials, development partners and stakeholders. This was a real celebration of another milestone achieved in promoting gender accountability as per the Office’s key mandate.

The gender profiles, which were developed under the support of the Belgium Development Agency (Enabel) and the Belgian Embassy, contain qualitative and quantitative data and analysis picturing the gender equality status in both sectors. The information will guide policy makers, stakeholders and all actors in advancing policy actions promoting gender equality in the health and energy sectors.

At the launch, the Guest of Honor, the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, honorable Amb. Nyirahabimana Soline highlighted that the two profiles will inform the ongoing national planning processes, and ensure that highlighted achievements are sustained, gender gaps addressed and the Country’s gender agenda advanced.

The Chief Gender Monitor in her remarks indicated that gender sector profiling is not only a strategy to further promote gender accountability, but also a tool for advocacy and for presenting evidence on persisting gaps in the promotion of gender equality.

Some Gender facts in the Health and Energy sectors

Talking from a health perspective, the infant mortality rate per 1.000 live births reduced from 107,4 per 1.000 in 2000 to 32 per 1.000 in 2015; women who delivered at health facilities increased from 28,2% in 2005 to 90,7% in 2015 while the maternal mortality rate per 100.000 live births reduced from 1,071 per 100.000 in 2000 to 210 per 100.000 in 2015. This sharp reduction is attributed to among others the institutionalization of maternal death audits, close follow-up on mothers and young children by community health workers as well as strengthened capacity of health professionals to deliver quality health services. Accessibility to health insurance especially Mutuelle de santé has contributed to improved access to health care services.

On the other hand, the analysis shows that more efforts are needed to continue mobilizing women on the benefits of antenatal visits and encourage them to accomplish at least four required ANC visits during pregnancy so as to track the growth of the baby and health of the mother.

The energy sector also recorded a relative improvement in the last couple of years. For instance, the percentage of households using electricity as the main source of energy for lighting increased from 12,1 in 2010 to 29,4 in 2017 for male headed HHs and 7,3 in 2010 to 20,3 in 2017 for female headed HHs.

Firewood and charcoal remain predominant as sources of cooking energy for both male and female headed households with 78,3% and 84,7% respectively. However recent data from EICV5 indicates a slight decrease in the use of firewood for male and female headed households. The profile recommends measures to improve women’s access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services especially those in rural areas and for households headed by poor women.

To access the Health and Energy Profile publications click here: link

Follow @GenderMonitorRw on Facebook and Twitter
In Rwanda, different mechanisms have been established to hold leaders accountable, such as Imihigo. Imihigo are performance contracts between the president of the Republic of Rwanda and mayors, committing the latter to achieve a set of goals within a given time frame. One of its objectives is ‘to promote accountability and transparency’. The Imihigo has become a key tool of governance in Rwanda at all levels of administration, from the national leadership in the various Ministries, to the executive leadership at the Province, District, Sector, Cell and village levels. Ministers, Provincial Governors, and District Mayors sign their Imihigo directly with the President, while lower administrative levels sign Imihigo with their superiors. The system is set to hold the local leaders accountable vis-à-vis the targets they have set. Despite all of this, it has been observed that citizens do not hold their leaders accountable, even though it’s their right and duty. Never Again Rwanda in its research said the following:

‘However, among other issues, accountability was almost unheard of in Rwanda throughout the different political regimes Rwandans experienced due largely to a high level of political centralism, irrational obedience and the political culture of submission.

As such, asking citizens to hold leaders accountable does not work easily. This may explain gaps in interactions between citizens and leaders, leaders practices regarding seeking citizens views and priorities, which translate in low citizen participation in policy design, implementation and evaluation.’ (Source: Never Again Rwanda & Interpeace ‘Governing with and for citizens: Lessons from post-genocide Rwanda’ 2016 )

In Rwanda, the issue with lack of accountability starts in families, schools and other institutions. The person in charge is never expected to report back to those he supervises. For leaders to be held accountable there needs to be a change of behavior and this should start from the bottom up. Never Again Rwanda through its various programs aims to empower citizens by educating them that their participation in democracy does not end with elections but is a continuous process that includes holding who they voted for accountable. This empowerment is also extended to leaders who are taught that accountability is a citizen’s right and duty, as citizens and leaders are different sides of the same coin.

For more info, consult www.neveragainrwanda.org
Or contact Ryarasa Joseph Nkurunziza, Executive Director, on joseph@neveragainrwanda.org
Follow @NARwanda on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
A lookback at 2018: Recounting the progress made in electrification

We can certainly say it’s been one of the most successful years for the Belgian electrification projects currently being implemented under the Electricity Access Rollout Programme (EARP). Belgium contributes 39M Euros to this programme, which aims to improve the access to reliable on-grid electricity services for rural households and priority institutions, like social infrastructures, health facilities, schools and administrative offices. While dealing with day to day issues and some implementation challenges inherent to construction projects of this nature, it’s nevertheless really fascinating to recount the tremendous progress that we witnessed in the last year.

Through the electrification lots under EARP, over 19,000 households across many districts in the Eastern Province have been connected to the on-grid power networks. This has created an enabling condition for socio-economic transformation in the districts of the Eastern Province by providing them reliable access to electricity for lighting and with opportunities for other energy-induced income generating activities. Simultaneously, it substantially contributes to the Government of Rwanda’s ambition of reaching universal access to electricity in the country by 2024, out of which 52% of households to be served through on-grid electricity services.

Under the umbrella of EARP, three Belgian projects, namely BE1, BE2 and BE3 with funding envelopes of 17M, 10M and 12M Euro respectively are being implemented. Around 15,000 household connections have come from projects under BE 1 EARP which started in 2014 and around 4,000 households have been connected through the two construction lots under BE 2 EARP. Other beneficiaries reaping the benefits of improved electricity access include several public institutions like schools, health posts, administrative offices along with local businesses and productive enterprises. The table below provides a quick synopsis of the numbers of connections, both households and other institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contractors (project)</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Approximate No. of connections (HH and institutions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STEG (BE1)</td>
<td>Rwamagana &amp; Kayonza</td>
<td>8100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCC (BE1)</td>
<td>Kayonza, Ngoma and Kirehe</td>
<td>7200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADHR (BE2)</td>
<td>Kirehe</td>
<td>2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TETRA (BE2)</td>
<td>Kirehe</td>
<td>2300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the one hand we have seen a tremendous growth in the number of connections in 2018, setting the tone for an exciting entry to 2019, on the other hand there are still challenges to overcome in terms of increasing the affordability for people. Indeed, access to affordable and reliable energy remains a concern for Rwandans in the rural areas. While the EARP has significantly contributed towards the on-grid electrification targets, it will also be necessary to further understand and address the challenges some beneficiaries are facing to afford the connection fee and house wiring costs. Curbing these challenges will require a concerted effort from all the stakeholders by embracing new and innovative ways of addressing these concerns. The Rwandan utility and all the stakeholders need to come together to find solutions aiming to increase the sustainability of electrification programmes. As we prepare to venture in the new year, the achievements and the lessons learned in 2018 will set a course for 2019 to make it another exciting year in our effort to improve the reliable and affordable access to electricity in the country.

For more info, contact Bibek Kandel, Intervention Co-manager, on bibek.kandel@enabel.be
Follow @EnabelinRwanda on Facebook and Twitter
Light for the World is a Belgian NGO that has been fighting blindness and reinforcing education for blind and visually impaired children for many years in Rwanda.

Eye care for all

The mission of Light for the World is clear: making eye services accessible to all, with a focus on children and the poorest populations. The Belgian NGO supports the Kabgayi Eye Unit in Muhanga since 1997. Over the years, the Eye Unit has been growing thanks to financial support, providing medical equipment and specialized training programs to local staff. It has become the most productive eye unit in Rwanda and was identified in 2013 as a referral hospital for eye care.

The Eye unit has been treating eye patients from all over the country, and even from neighboring countries (Burundi, DRC and Tanzania). It offers a wide range of eye care services: the treatment of congenital cataract, congenital glaucoma and retinoblastoma cases and other eye diseases. It also has an optical shop with high-quality and low-cost glasses.

In 2018, the Kabgayi Eye unit carried out 41,392 eye consultations and 6,172 operations.

Inclusive education project

Light for the World is also supporting Education projects. One of them is the Institute for Blind and Visual Impaired children of Rwamagana were 171 children are registered. This school is one of the only institutions in Rwanda that provides education for children with such a disability. Furthermore, Light for the World launched in October 2017 an Inclusive Education Pilot Project in the Kabgayi District. This project aims to enable access to education for children with visual impairment.

2017-2021: FUTURE IN SIGHT

For the period 2017-2021, Light for the World receives subsidies from Belgian Cooperation to support its plan calling ‘Future in Sight’. In Rwanda, the NGO aims to:

- carry out eye care examinations for at least 212,000 persons at Kabgayi Eye Unit
- carry out eye operations for at least 19,800 persons at Kabgayi Eye Unit
- train 93 ophthalmic medical staff members
- enable access to education for at least 171 blind or visual impaired children at the Rwamagana School

Faustin had been complaining about sand in his eyes. A pediatric ophthalmologist diagnosed cataract and immediately operated Faustin. The following day Faustin could already distinguish the geometric shapes shown by the nurse. The ophthalmologist is satisfied with the result. The boys sight will gradually improve in the next days.

For more info: consult www.lightfortheworld.be

Follow @LFTWBelgium on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
In Rwanda, the issue of health and safety at work is a relatively new topic. In order to fulfill its mission to promote and contribute to the social well-being of workers, CESTRAR and STECOMA, supported by the General Federation of Labour of Belgium (FGTB), its Institute for Trade Union Cooperation (IFSI) and its affiliate in the construction sector (the Centrale Générale), implement a project on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). This project addresses the problems of day labourers in the tea and construction sectors in particular, but at the same time it also draws the attention of the workers in general to the problem of OHS. Since 2015, as result of this project, OHS committees are set up in all companies with 20 or more workers.

The work in the tea and construction sectors has been chosen because of its specific characteristics. In fact, day labourers in both sectors are not, in terms of legislation or practice, governed by the national labour legislation, they are not covered by social protection nor do they benefit of other rights linked to employment (like Compensation for breach of contract, notice period in case of dismissal, sick leave or maternity leave, annual vacation, etc). Therefore the workers in these sectors are particularly vulnerable to poverty and they constitute a risk group to which the trade union organization is offering a possibility of emancipation.

Most of the construction workers and STECOMA members have gained their experience on the job and they do not have official degrees proving their qualifications and knowledge. They are often paid as unskilled labour by lack of certificate. In order to alleviate this problem and to allow workers to have a more acceptable salary, STECOMA has started negotiations that resulted in the signing of an agreement with the Rwanda Workforce Development Authority. This agreement consists of assessing workers' skills and awarding them certificates, which enable them to value their skills, become more competitive in the labour market and negotiate better wages and working conditions. Currently, more than 15,000 workers have received their certificate for construction and some 1,500 have received a certificate in carpentry.

The idea of a day care facility on the tea plantations, which was initiated as a pilot project in Mulindi, has served as an example for other tea plantations in Gisovu, Sorwathe and Pfunda which currently also have set up a day care on their premises. These day care facilities are co-financed by the parents, the unions and the employers that were sensitized to support this initiative. This union action supports the self-organization of women working in tea plantations to respond to the problem of caring for young children in relation to the demands of professional life. Thus women have the opportunity to earn a higher income, equal to that of the male workers.

For more info, consult www.ifsi-isvi.be and www.cestrar.rw
For nearly 85% of the population access to health care passes through the “Mutuelle de Santé” also called MUSA. This access is conditioned by the annual payment of a contribution of 3,000Frw per person. It is not always easy for a small farmer to collect the amount due for all members of his household. To face this financial challenge, community networks in the Mukamira sector in Nyabihu district have set up a self-managed rural credit system, “Mutualité IFEZA”. Micro savings collected in this system are reinvested in agricultural family micro-enterprises and create rural jobs that can finance the MUSA.

Brief history

In 2015, with the support of the Belgian municipality of Asse and the Christian Mutuality of Eastern Hainaut, the local NGO “Entraide et Développement” and a pilot network of 178 mutualists from the Rurengeri Cell in the Mukamira Sector developed a system of small weekly savings:

- The amount to be saved throughout the year by the mutualist to pay the contribution to the MUSA has been calculated by each head of household.

- A poultry farmer has 12 laying hens. By selling about 10 eggs produced per day, the farmer makes a daily income of nearly 1,000 RwF. Once a week part of the money from the proceeds of this sale is collected by the treasurer and registered in the notebook of the mutualist group of the village. The total savings of all mutualists are transferred directly to the group’s account at “Sacco de Mukamira”. No withdrawals can be made from this account during the year since the account will only be used for the collective annual payment of the MUSA.

- In June 2016, the groups of mutualists made the first group payment to MUSA for all the adherent household members. Of course, the success was celebrated at the first mutuality celebration in the village of Kabyaza under the theme: *Ifeza yanje ni ubuzima bwiza bw’umuryango wanjye* - The good health of my family is my most precious asset.

- Two years later, in June 2018, nearly 3,500 households are members of the Ifeza Mutuals Federation of Mukamira. The Mukamira sector is now ranked second, in the MUSA coverage in Nyabihu District.

To ensure the sustainability of their sources of income, Ifeza mutualists have diversified their income streams. In 2017, farmers reinforced the poultry value chain by introducing them to the butcher’s shop. Farmers also initiated the commercial cultivation of mushrooms by introducing an innovative technique for recycling local agricultural waste from pyrethrum and coffee.

The Rwandan diaspora in Belgium is getting involved

In the 2019 campaign of Solidev - Remittences 2.0, the diaspora will send financial support to productive projects that durably solve the problems of the community. In April, the campaign offers people of the diaspora the opportunity to sponsor poultry micro-entrepreneurs by offering "Easter Eggs". A donation of sixty euros pays the breeder 12 laying hens. This same donation can launch a micro-entrepreneur producing mushrooms by buying 120 tubes of oyster mushroom seeds.

For more info, contact solidev_bel@yahoo.fr
The “Centre de Perfectionnement et de Promotion Agricole (CPPA)” in Kisaro has been active in the Northern province since 45 years.

The initiative to introduce pig-breeding to provide meat for local consumption and for meat-processing was particularly successful. Pigs are either fattened up in the centre, or raised by farmers who were trained for that purpose. In order to maintain positive results inbreeding has to be avoided. This can be obtained by artificial insemination with sperm imported from Belgium. To facilitate this process suitable facilities were constructed with financial support from the Belgian Province of Limburg: a lab was established and staff was trained to implement the techniques.

Excellent results are obtained with the “Belgian Landrace” and “Piétrain” and these are now introduced all over Rwanda by the CPPA in collaboration with MINAGRI (Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources). Pig-breeders from Tanzania and the Republic of Congo also find their way to Kisaro to buy breeding-pigs. The number of artificial inseminations rose from 300 in 2017 to 500 in 2018. The number of pigs slaughtered in the CPPA-centre currently amounts to 400 per year. Universities and technical schools send trainees to our training centre, agricultural cooperatives and associations request guided tours. In December 2018 we received the visit of the Swine Breeding Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture of Eritrea and of the Director of the Rwandan Development Board.

For more info, consult their website: kisaro.be

Training by the CPPA has over the years formed many pig breeders who are still in contact with the Center for the delivery of pigs ready to be slaughtered, for the purchase of young pigs and of breeding material and for artificial insemination by our technician.

Some numbers:
- Young farmers in training around the Center: 17
- Independent breeders formerly trained in the Center: 9
- Independent breeders formerly trained in the Center and with more than 50 pigs: 6
- Breeders in a cooperative: 2
- Independent large breeders who were not trained in the Center, but who ask CPPA for breeding pigs and insemination: 20 (spread all over the country)

Other achievements of the Kisaro-Center

The area in which the Center works, is very susceptible to erosion. Therefore CPPA has been working locally to train young farmers to manually build soft-sloped terraces to prevent erosion. At this moment a total area of 45 ha, has been completely terraced. Smallholders in neighbouring areas copied this method and as a result you can see terraced farming all around in the surrounding hills.

Potatoes, for which a germ house was built, is another success-product. Other crops that were successfully introduced are beans, maize, lettuce, leeks, sorghum and later wheat. About 130 persons work for the Centre. Director of the Centre is Evariste Safari. The farmers obtain a variety of good quality seeds from the CPPA and the produce is sold both to individuals and to wholesalers.

CPPA is also involved in other social and economic activities, a few workhouses were built for welding, joining, baking and meat processing. CPPA constructed twelve schools, fifteen churches and parish centres and two medical centres.
For the first time the Sustainable Technology for Africa contest arrives in Rwanda, after two successful editions in Belgium and a great event in Uganda last year. The SusTech4Africa competition aims to foster entrepreneurship in East-Africa with knowledge transfer and social loans.

The Belgian association Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs (OVO) is convinced that entrepreneurship can create sustainable welfare and employment opportunities. To target this mission, OVO organizes since 2017 the Sustainable Technology for Africa contest embracing starters and scale-ups into a 3 days boot camp followed by a final pitch. During the boot camp the local entrepreneurs will work together with experts from different backgrounds and generations to strengthen their business model, and financial, marketing and presentation skills. The boot camp is led by senior Belgian chief executives, together with organizing partners VITO (Flemish Institute for Technology and Research), the Thomas More University and Chancen International. Participants called this a hands-on and very practical ‘mini’-Master of Business Administration training. Typically these coaching sessions welcome up to ten starters and enterprises.

Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs (OVO) has been created in 2000 and is completely funded by the private sector. It operates with an extensive network of knowledge volunteers and investors and supports more than 30 companies in developing countries. Recently the OVO Acceleration Fund was established in collaboration with the King Baudouin Foundation, it aims to collect some 300.000 euro to invest in East-African companies via social loans. This new Fund strengths the OVO program to foster entrepreneurship in a broader horizon.

Creating a solid and sustainable business plan

Kigali will host the 4th SusTech4 Africa event that will take place as from September 19th with the final pitch on September 24. The jury, mostly composed by local entrepreneurs and organizations, will select the best 3 projects that will receive further knowledge transfer and a social loan up to 50.000 euro. Creating a solid and a sustainable business plan is a major goal but local entrepreneurs must develop their ambitions in an independent and self-supporting way.

The SusTech4Africa contest in Kigali will be preceded by a 3 days Inspiration Tour for Belgian business leaders, university professors and students, they will be visiting local Rwandan companies with a social and sustainable impact. These inspiration tours show the business opportunities and development chances for Belgian investors in Africa.

For more information about SusTech4Africa, consult ondernemersvoorondernemers.be/nl/sustech4africa

And follow @SusTech4Africa on Facebook

For more information on Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs (OVO), consult www.ovo.be or contact Bjorn Macauter, General Manager, on bjorn@ovo.be

Follow @OndernemersVoorOndernemers on Facebook