

## Rwanda

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Project title:	The introduction of mechanised and irrigated high yielding maize varieties
Location:	Bugesera
Sector:	Agriculture
Applicant:	Heineken N.V., Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Local partner:	Minimex S.A., Kigali, Rwanda
Third partner:	Bralirwa S.A., Kigali, Rwanda
Start project:	15 July 2008
End project:	15 July 2010
Total budget:	EUR 830,500 (60 percent PSOM contribution)

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### Project summary:

Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries of Africa. Although the country has a lot of farming potential, the number of professional large scale farms is very low. As a result, it is hard for the country to become self sufficient in terms of food supply. The Rwandan government is promotes farming on a large scale, but so far, no grand initiatives have been set up.

Local company Minimex S.A. owns a professional maize mill in Kigali, and experiences difficulties with the local supply of good quality maize. In recent years, Minimex had to import maize in order to meet the demand in maize meal and maize grit. Local brewery Bralirwa SA (a 70% daughter of Heineken N.V.) is one of Minimex' clients, as it uses maize grit for the local beer production. As Bralirwa wants to increase the use of maize in their local beer production, they are interested in having a continuous supply of good quality maize grit, all year round.

Because of the increasing prices of food crops on the world market, investing in an own farm has become very interesting for the business partners. The partners have been assigned a swamp area of 600 ha in the Bugesera district by the Rwandan government, designated for agricultural development. During the PSOM project, 140 ha of this land will be cultivated for professionally mechanised and irrigated production of maize, using high yielding maize varieties. Next to the main farm, the partners will train and assist outgrowers in the region in growing high yielding maize varieties as well.