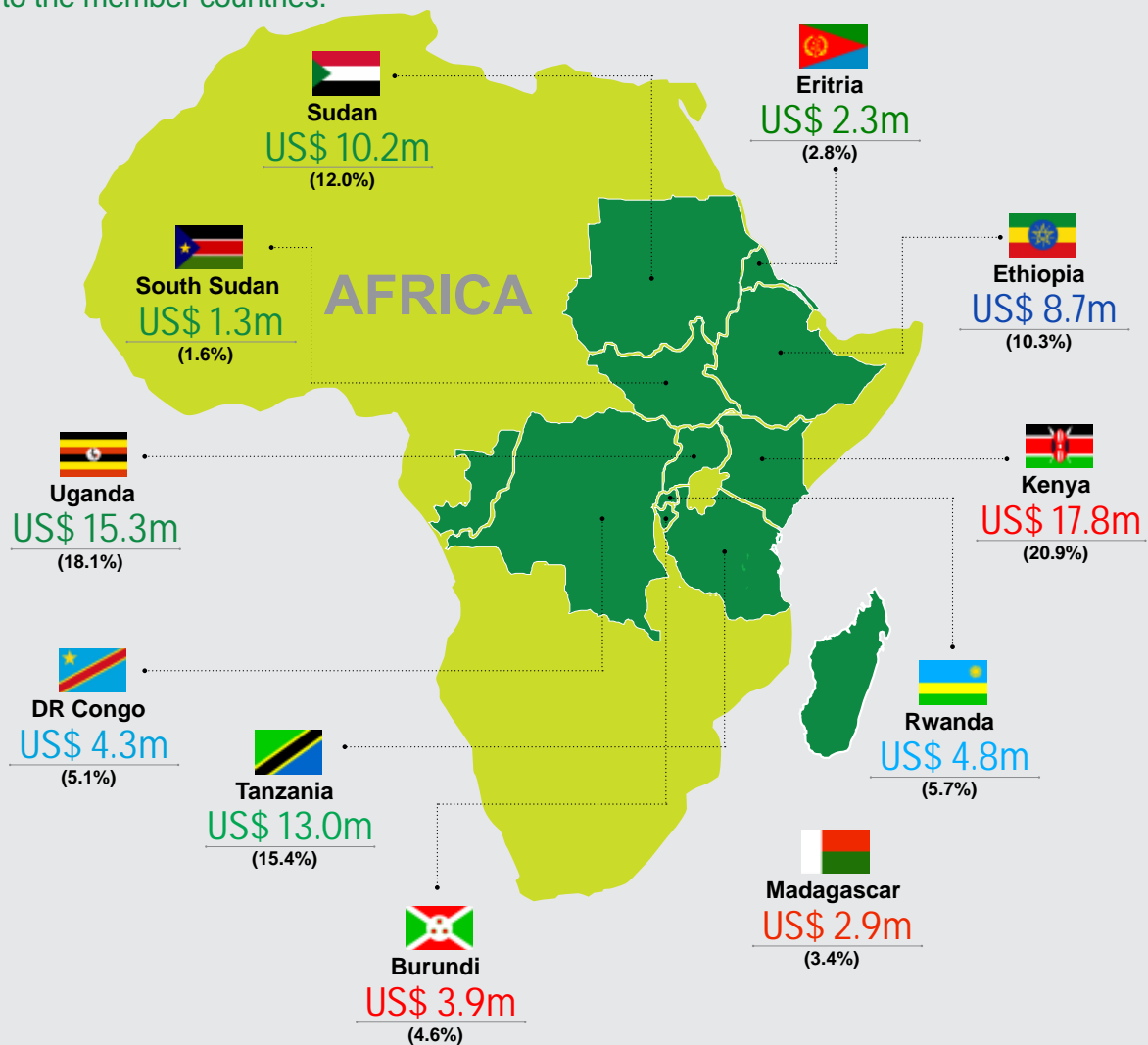


Contribution to Member Countries

Since inception in 1994, ASARECA has worked with National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of its twelve member countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Between 1994 and 2018, ASARECA mobilized US\$ 131 million to implement Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) initiatives in the countries. In addition, ASARECA coordinated the EAAPP programme in five member countries. Below are snapshots of ASARECA contribution to the member countries.



Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a founding member and one of the 12 constituents of ASARECA. Since inception, ASARECA has worked mainly with Institut National Pour l'Etude et la Recherche Agronomiques (INERA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to implement AR4D projects. Between 1994 and 2018, ASARECA invested US\$ 4.3 million to catalyze Agricultural transformation in DRC through key beneficiary projects highlighted below:

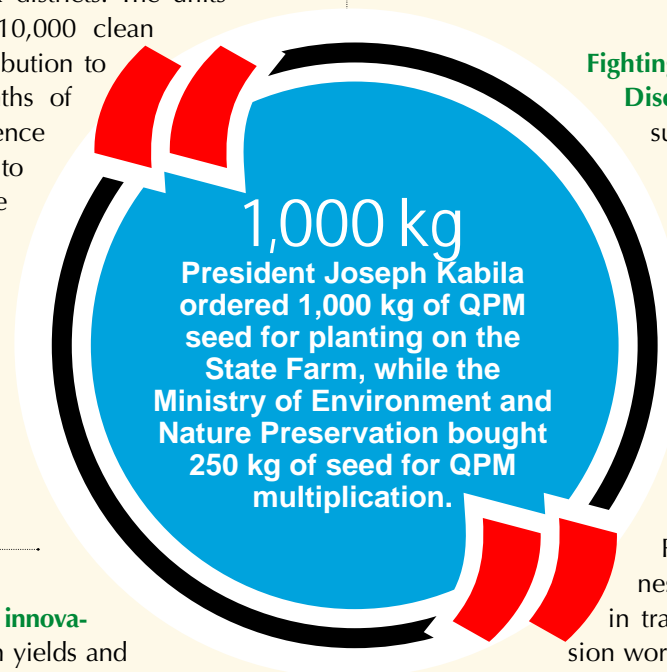
Controlling the spread of Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW): ASARECA supported INERA to promote proven and cost-effective measures to control the deadly BXW epidemic that threatened to wipe out the banana crop in Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and DRC. Working with INERA, the project established eight macro-propagation units in four sites in DRC, in addition to mother gardens and demonstration plots established in Kayonza and Gisagara districts. The units initially produced over 10,000 clean banana plantlets for distribution to farmers. Within six months of adoption, BXW prevalence reduced from over 90% to less than 5%, while the proportion of farmers who controlled the disease increased from less than 5% to over 60%. After 15 months, banana production recovered from zero percent in some places to over 80%.

Promoting climbing bean innovations: Following decline in yields and quality of most bean varieties in Rwanda, Burundi and DRC, ASARECA supported researchers from these countries to identify and test the best bean cropping systems. Two systems: intercropping beans with maize stalks (as stakes) and monocropping beans using

sisal and banana fibre/strings were selected. Extension workers and farmers were trained on best agronomic practices, with the beneficiary farmers registering yield increases from 780 to 3,500 kg/ha, while those who intercropped climbing beans with maize realized yield increases from 367 to 2,100 kg/ha above the farmers who did not use these technologies.

Fighting Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD):

As part of ensuring regional collaboration, ASARECA supported scientists from Uganda, Kenya, DRC, Madagascar, Rwanda and Burundi to fight CBSD that had wrecked havoc in the region between 2000 and 2011. The losses were estimated at above US\$ 100 million. ASARECA led the development of Information Resource Kit used in awareness creation campaigns, and in training of farmers and extension workers on detection of affected materials. Researchers have since developed varieties that are tolerant to CBSD as efforts continue to find varieties that are totally resistant to CBSD.



Increasing productivity of pigs: Following reports of the outbreak of *Porcine cysticercosis* in human beings as a result of consuming pork infected with *Teania solium*, ASARECA coordinated researchers from International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and DRC to develop national capacities for surveillance, prevention and control of *Teania solium*. National Action Plans were developed for control of the disease in the five countries, leading to remarkable control and increased productivity in the pig sector.

Promoting Quality Protein Maize (QPM)

Following the high incidence of acute child malnutrition, massive illiteracy and high levels of poverty, ASARECA has supported INERA in rapid scaling-up of QPM. This improved variety of maize contains 70-100% more building blocks of proteins than normal maize varieties. Out-scaling initiatives were imple-

mented in the Southern and Central Provinces, with over 40,000 farmers planting QPM for sale as grain and quality seed. In Gandajika, where malnutrition was highest, lactating mothers and malnourished children were exposed to feeding regimes of QPM at organized feeding centres. Within two weeks of feeding, the malnourished babies began to recover, with majority of the breast-feeding mothers reporting increase in breast milk. This led to rapid awareness of QPM within the country.

In May 2012, President Joseph Kabila learnt of the nutritional and income benefits of QPM, and joined researchers in promoting it by allocating 500 hectares of land to INERA to multiply QPM seeds for distribution across the country. Subsequently, the President's office ordered 1,000 kg of QPM seed for planting on the State Farm, while the Ministry of Environment and Nature Preservation bought 250 kg of seed for QPM multiplication.



Children at a feeding centre in Tanzania enjoy QPM porridge