

The ups and downs of growing Soya in Rwanda

By Clinton Development Initiative - Rwanda

Why promote soya in Rwanda?

1. Soya is said to be among the superior nutritious crop in the world (approximately 40% protein and 20% oil, both vital for human and animal diet)
2. The amount of proteins found in soya is similar to animal proteins, which makes it a good substitute to animal and fish protein.
3. Soybean oil is 85% unsaturated, has linoleic and oleic acids which reduces the risk of heart diseases by lowering cholesterol by 33%, thus contributing in prolonging life expectancy.

The up side: what are the opportunities in the soya value chain?

1. There is a big market demand for Soya in Rwanda.
2. Soya is a priority crop by the Ministry of Agriculture.
3. Soya has many uses such as oil, milk, floor and animal feed

The down side: what are the challenges in the soya value chain?

1. There is low production levels of soya in Rwanda.
2. There is need to bring in new varieties compatibles to the area
3. Due to pre and post harvest losses, soya currently has low gross profit margin

From Seed to Market: CDI is bridging the gap and impacting the soya value chain in Rwanda by:

1. Availing high quality planting material such as seed and agro inputs close to the farmers.
2. Educating farmers on better husbandry techniques
3. Linking farmers with financial institutions to access financial services
4. Establish aggregation and warehousing points in partnership with cooperatives
5. Introduce technology and large scale production demonstration

How does CDI support the poultry sector players in Rwanda?

CDI identifies and tracks the demand from key buyers as follow:

- a. Who are they?
- b. How much they need?
- c. When do they need it?
- d. Are there specific Quality/characteristics that they are looking for?
- e. How can CDI tie these buyers to the producer cooperative we serve?