



JICA BURUNDI - Newsletter

February 2026 – March 2026 • Bujumbura

JICA–Enabel Joint Workshop: Strengthening Participatory and promoting market-oriented rice farming

On February 11 and 12, 2026, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in collaboration with Enabel, organized a joint knowledge-sharing workshop at the Emeraude Hotel in Bujumbura dedicated to the participatory and efficient management of irrigation water, as well as the development of market-oriented rice farming in the Imbo region.

The main objective of this meeting was to strengthen the market-oriented rice sector by facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices between the two partner organizations. The discussions helped identify concrete actions and joint recommendations, while consolidating the collaboration between JICA and Enabel to increase the impact of their interventions on the ground.

This two-day workshop brought together nearly 50 participants per day from a variety of backgrounds, including local authorities of Bubanza, Cibitoke, and Bukinanyana, technical services, the Imbo Regional Development Company (SRDI), the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock (MINEAGRI), rice cooperatives, water user associations, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees . This diversity reflected an inclusive approach, taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups and fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue. Discussions highlighted the importance of participatory irrigation management, based on the active involvement of water users, as well as on strengthening organizational and technical capacities.

Furthermore, the workshop underscored the need to make rice production more market-oriented by improving quality, productivity, and access to marketing channels. Emphasis was also placed on the key role of water user organizations and cooperatives in the sustainability of irrigation systems and local economic development.

By fostering dialogue, mutual learning, and coordination among stakeholders, this joint workshop marks an important step toward more effective and sustainable water resource management, as well as enhanced resilience and economic opportunities for rice producers in the Imbo region.



Photo of workshop participants at the Emeraude Hotel Presentations and sharing of experiences during the workshop

Project updates



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JICA Boosts Rice Production in the Imbo Plain Through Rural Road Rehabilitation

Mugerero, Gihanga, Bubanza – As part of its commitment to sustainable agricultural development in Burundi, JICA is actively supporting the improvement of infrastructure essential to rice production in the Imbo Plain through the Project to Support the Improvement of Rice Cultivation in Burundi (PAARIB).

As part of this effort, a strategic road running alongside the main canal connecting Crossroad 9 (Tr9) to Crossroad 5 (Tr5) in the Mugerero area has been rehabilitated with support from JICA. The work, which included resurfacing the road and repairing potholes, has improved accessibility, making it easier to transport crops to the Imbo Regional Development Company.

Beyond improving traffic conditions, this project helps enhance market access and boost rice marketing. It is thus part of an integrated approach aimed at sustainably developing the rice value chain in the Imbo Plain.

A key element of this initiative is the active involvement of local communities. Rice-farming households, the primary beneficiaries, participated in the rehabilitation work and also received training on the maintenance of irrigation canals. These actions strengthen their technical capacities and promote the sustainable management of water infrastructure.

“These improvements make it easier to transport our crops and maintain our fields. This will have a real impact on our production,” says a rice farmer from Mugerero.

Through this type of initiative, JICA reaffirms its commitment to supporting resilient, productive, and market-oriented agriculture, for the benefit of Burundian rural communities.

Before the work



During and after the work



CONTACT US

The JICA BURUNDI Newsletter is a publication that highlights JICA's international perspective and its involvement in local economic development. This newsletter provides a detailed overview of JICA's work in Burundi.

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JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is the world's largest bilateral aid agency, providing various forms of assistance in approximately 150 countries worldwide.

Rehabilitation work and the rehabilitated road facilitating access to agricultural areas