

Enhancing Good Governance and Economic Self-Reliance within Refugee Inclusive Agricultural Cooperatives in Rwanda

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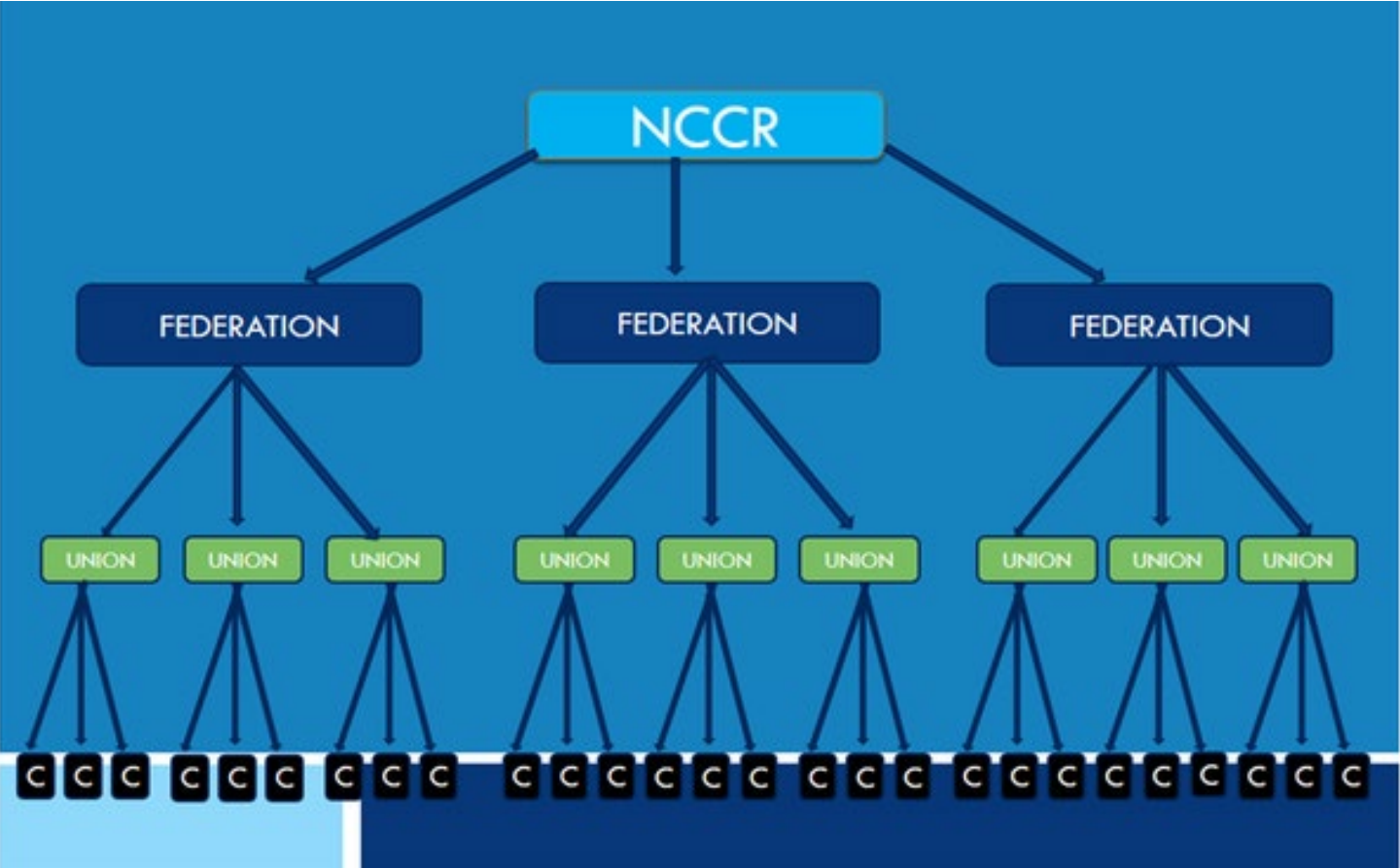
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5 October 2023

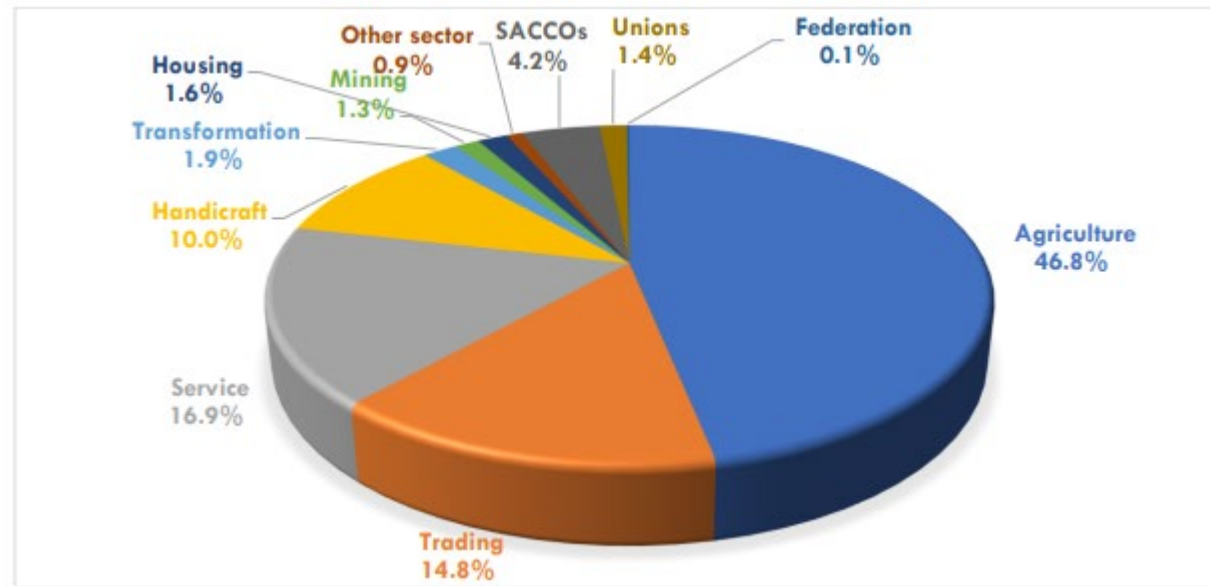
Legal Framework: Cooperative Organization in Rwanda

- Principles governing a cooperative
- Governance organs of a cooperative

Structure of cooperative movement in Rwanda



Types of cooperatives by economic activity (Mar 2023)



Socio-Economic Impact of Cooperatives in Rwanda

- Improved food security – increased productivity
- Poverty Reduction
- Contribution to the achievement of SDGs
- Women and youth empowerment
- Fostering peaceful coexistence and stability
- Increasing financial inclusion and financial literacy

Refugee inclusive agricultural cooperatives

Background

- GCR/CRRF Pledge no. 6 of the Government of Rwanda at the 2019 GRC: ***“To promote joint agriculture projects between refugees and host communities to create jobs and increase agricultural production leading to self-reliance”***
- ***“Self-employment in the agriculture sector”*** (Pillar Three: of the MINEMA/UNHCR Joint Strategy on the Economic Inclusion of Refugees and the Host Community 2021-2024).

Three agricultural cooperatives including refugees

- Gisagara district/Mugombwa Refugee Camp (Misizi marshland), established in 2019 (maize, beans, horticulture)
 - 1,427 households (300 refugees & 1,127 hosts)
- Nyamagabe district/Kigeme RC (Mushishito marshland), established in 2022 (maize, beans, Irish potatoes)
 - 1569 households (500 refugees & 1,069 hosts)
- Gatsibo District/Nyabiheke RC (Nyabicwamba marshland), established in 2022 (maize, soya beans, beans, horticulture).
 - 467 households (232 refugee, 235 hosts)

Measuring Success/Impact

- Peaceful co-existence between refugees and members of the host community
- Increase in agricultural production and household revenue
- Improved food security for project participants
- Market linkages (increased income)

Partnerships and Cooperation

- **Government (Sector, District, Rwanda Agricultural Board [RAB], MINAGRI, RCA, etc.)**
 - Land/agricultural marshlands
 - Technical guidance
 - Training on coop management
- **Donors, UNHCR and other Dev Partners**
 - Marshland development and irrigation infrastructure
 - Agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, eco-friendly pesticides, etc.)
 - Entrepreneurship training
- **Private Sector**
 - Market linkage (e.g., Africa Improved Food [AIF], the only producer of the WFP-certified [Super Cereal Plus](#) in Africa)
 - Access to financial services (local SACCOs, MFIs, Banks)
 - Inputs supply (local agro-dealers)
- **Farmers, Farmer Leaders, Zone Leaders, Cooperative Committees, etc.**
 - Labor
 - Farming coordination
 - Cooperative management

Challenges & Areas of Advocacy

- Limited land/small land size per HH
- Limited funding for scalability :
 - to include (i) more HH and (ii) other camps
 - To initiate strong livestock components
 - To support value-adding infrastructure
- Climate change (impacting resilience and sustainability)
 - Need for strong and reliable irrigation structures

Thank you for your kind attention!



Mr. Shema and Ms. Alice (sitting panelists from the left) two refugees from Nyabiheke RC and members of Koperative Duhuze Imbaraga Gatsibo – KODIGA, the Ag. Coop. in Gatsibo district at the **Africa Food Systems Forum 2023** held in DAR, TZ, early September 2023.