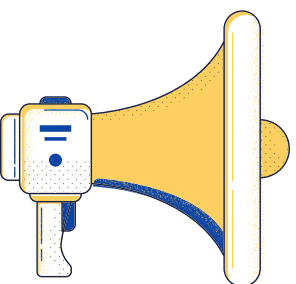




INGABO SYNDICATE

Farmers' own voice
La propre voix des agriculteurs
Ijwi ry'abahinzi ubwabo



WHO WE ARE

Farmers are at the forefront of a food secure planet and a sustainable agriculture. However, farmers inclusion in significant agricultural development initiatives is still inadequate. They are simply considered as beneficiaries with very little or no decision-making power on the progress of their profession. Yet, we believe that there is a need for farmers to work together with other sector stakeholders in a bid to achieve mutual goal of a more sustainable agriculture.

Ingabo syndicate is Rwandan farmers' own voice organisation that advocates to promote modern agricultural profession and farmers' interests. Our aim is to make farmers' voice heard on various decision-making platforms.

Ingabo was recognised as the Farmers' Syndicate on 04/01/2005 by the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Labor and Public services.

INGABO Syndicate currently counts over 15,000 active members of which 44.9% are women and 55.1% men.

INGABO Syndicate is a founding member of the **East African Farmers Federation (EAFF)** and a member of the **World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)**.

We are headquartered in Southern province of Rwanda.

WE DO

We are farmers' own voice.
We strive to improve agriculture profession by advocating for causes that contribute to the technical and economic capacities of agricultural producers so that they become competitive players on the market.

WE WANT

To have professional Agricultural Producers who benefit from their profession in Rwanda.

VALUE CHAINS WE PROMOTE

-
- Cassava,
 - Bananas,
 - Iron beans,
 - Soybeans,
 - Horticulture and
 - Livestock.



CASSAVA WEEK BACKGROUND

Being one of the value chain we promote, cassava is a staple food crop ranking third in country after sweet potatoes and bananas in terms of importance and the second crop with high yields per hectare. Cassava is among the priority crops to help cope with food insecurity. In Rwanda, over 700,000 families grow cassava who produce 1.7 million tons per year.

These are the reasons among others that Ingabo Syndicate introduced Cassava week, an annual event that brings together all cassava value chain stakeholders, farmers, development partners and government decision makers. The objective of the event is to connect cassava farmers with the market players and with different partners who work towards development of the cassava crop in Rwanda.

Cassava week helps the partners to identify and analyse various challenges in the cassava value chain and find their solutions.

Ingabo Syndicate believes that it is important for cassava farmers to sit on same table with researchers, policy makers, business partners and development partners to discuss about the development of the cassava crop in Rwanda and search for a win-win environment for all the actors.

Also, people get time to celebrate their achievements and pledge for the following year. This year, In collaboration with Rwanda Agriculture (RAB) and Kinazi Cassava Plant, Ingabo Syndicate organised its third cassava week in November 2020.

CASSAVA WEEK 2020

Efficient investment
in strengthening cassava
value chain.



CASSAVA WEEK 2020

Cassava Week 2020 was held in Nyanza and Ruhango districts from 17 - 19 November 2020 with the theme “Efficient investment in strengthening cassava value chain.” The event was Officially opened by the State Minister of Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Hon. Jean Chrisostome Ngabitsinze.

In his remark, the minister highlighted the importance of cassava and outlined that the government of Rwanda has been chosen cassava as one of the focus crops to be under the crop intensification program, a program aimed at boosting agricultural productivity. Despite the efforts made, The minister pointed out that there is still a challenge of low yield per hectare compared to other countries in the region, he thanked the actors for what they have done so far and urged them to continue working together and increase the yield from the current 14.5 tonnes per hectare to at least 25 tonnes per hectare.

“

Farmers must not only cultivate; they need to also have visionary business plans aiming at raising their capital.”

said Hon. Minister Jean Chrisostome Ngabitsinze.



Farmers - Ingabo Syndicate members were pleased by the participation of different cassava value chain stakeholders ranging from researchers, government officials, development partners, and private cassava processors. The farmers' Syndicate presented "[Constraints against farmers' access to formal loans and agricultural insurance](#)" and "[Achievements of Ingabo Syndicate in cassava value chain.](#)"

Open discussions about cassava value chain development through efficient investment and farmers access to finance were also held among the event participants.

“

The development of cassava crop requires increase in agricultural investment. It is high time that Agriculture get regarded as a business sector as other sectors have been”

said Mme Kantarama Cesarie, The chairperson of Ingabo Syndicate.



CASSAVA WEEK 2020

NAMING OF NEW SEEDS CASSAVA VARIETIES

Six cassava farmers who worked closely with Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) in research on new cassava varieties were given opportunity to name those varieties in Kinyarwanda. Those varieties usually have scientific names that can seem difficult for farmers to memorise.

To name the new varieties farmers base on their efficiency in terms of resistance to diseases, taste, quality, production and growth period. During the Cassava week 2020 naming ceremony, farmers came-up with the following names:

- **RWACASS15_1: Gikungu: Wealthy**
- **RWACASS16-1: Buryohe: Tasty**
- **RWACASS17-2: Tebuka: Be quick**
- **RWACASS17-1: Nsizebashonje: No hunger**
- **RWACASS18-1: Biseruka: Stand tall**
- **RWACASS18-2: Tegereza: Just wait**

David Matabaro is a member of Ingabo Syndicate, cassava farmer and seed multiplier. He has been working with Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) since 2003 in various researches on new cassava varieties that are disease resistant and suitable for the regions of Rwanda.

“

I have tried the RWACASS18-2 in my field. I chose to name it *Tegereza*, you just have to be patient with this variety up to 18 months. Even if the harvest might take a bit longer compared to other varieties, with *Tegereza*, you can get cassava roots of up to 1m of length and a considerable width, its yield dries well and produce flour of good quality and quantity. In addition, *Tegereza* can easily be multiplied because its tree grows well and gives a lot of seeds.”

David explains while naming a new cassava variety at Cassava week 2020 in Nyanza district



David Matabaro, a member of Ingabo Syndicate, cassava farmer and seed multiplier when naming the RWACASS18-2: *Tegereza: Just wait*



▲
Event participants and farmers interacting with the E- cassava market application on their smartphones



▲
Jean Pierre Habimana, the vice chairperson of Ingabo Syndicate launching the cassava farmers' company initiated by Ingabo Syndicate



▲
Mme Kantarama Cesarie, the chairperson of Ingabo Syndicate.

CASSAVA WEEK 2020

E-CASSAVA MARKET AND FARMERS COMPANY LAUNCH

Ingabo Syndicate launched the E-Cassava market application during the Cassava week 2020. The application will bridge the gap in exchanging information about seeds, farmers produce and market availability across cassava value chain actors.“

This a great tool of information management. With this technology, farmers can easily know available varieties and where to find them. On the other hand, buyers will know where to find sellable cassava produce and available quantity. As farmer, we want that our partners mainly processors or vendors know about this new way of information exchange.” said Mme Kantarama Cesarie, the chairperson of Ingabo Syndicate.

The E-Cassava market application was developed by Ingabo Syndicate with the support of Project FO4ACP: Farmers' Organizations for the African Caribbean & Pacific countries under PAFO and EAFF, funded by EU & IFAD.

Mme Kantarama Cesarie, the chairperson of Ingabo Syndicate urged her fellow farmers-members of Ingabo Syndicate to also find solutions for some challenges which are still in the cassava value chain.

“

There are still some challenges that we need to work on as farmers such as increasing yield per hectare and being able to deliver our produce to the market efficiently.”

said Mme Kantarama Cesarie, the chairperson of Ingabo Syndicate.

In order to address some the above challenges, Ingabo Syndicate initiated a company that is fully owned by cassava farmers who joined together to work towards turning their profession into a more profitable business.

CASSAVA WEEK 2020

AWARDING WINNERS OF FARMERS COMPETITION 2020

In partnership with Agriterra, a Dutch organisation that strengthen farmer ownership and stimulate economic growth for ambitious farmers worldwide and a longterm partner of Ingabo Syndicate, the winners of Farmers Competition 2020 were awarded and celebrated during the Cassava week 2020, the ceremony took place at Kinazi Cassava Plant.

Jacques Niyongira, a member of Ingabo Syndicate was awarded as the best farmer in competition of 2020. A resident of Ruhango district, Jaques cultivates cassava on more than 10 hectares and has been doing so professionally for more than 15 years.

“

After joining Ingabo Syndicate, I got access to better cassava seeds and trainings on good farming practices and business planning. That's how I managed to evolve my profession. Today, I harvest between 20 - 25 tones per hectare. To get to this, I use fertilisers and I think the experience I gained over the years helps as well.”

said Jacques Niyongira



▲ Farmers couple, one of the winner of the farmers competition 2020 after being handed over their acknowledgement certificate by Jasper Spikker, Agriterra, Rwanda Country representative



▲ Some of the winners of the farmers competition 2020 being awarded with acknowledgement certificates and farming tools



▲ Jaques Niyongira, a member of Ingabo Syndicate and best winner of Farmer Competition 2020



INGABO SYNDICATE

FARMERS' OWN VOICE
LA PROPRE VOIX DES AGRICULTEURS
IJWI RY'ABAHINZI UBWABO

Thanks to all the participants of the Cassava week 2020
and partners who made the event run smoothly:

**MINAGRI, MIFOTRA, MINICOM, RAB, Ruhango district, Nyanza
district and Kamonyi district, Muhanga district, PAFO, EAFF,
AGRITERRA, IITA and Spark.**

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[Click here to access photographs of the Cassava Week 2020](#)