CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES - AGRO-PROCESSING OF TEA AND COFFEE IN RWANDA -
Why adaptation to climate change matters for businesses!

„Climate action is not about sacrificing growth, but rather making sure that development gains can be sustained for generations to come.”

Dr. Vincent Biruta
Rwandan Minister of Natural Resources

Climate change is ALREADY taking place in Rwanda...

- The mean annual temperature has risen by about 1.4°C since 1971.
- Unusually heavy rains occurred in the North and more severe droughts in the East and South in the last two decades.

...and will become more severe in the future

- Annual temperatures are projected to increase up to 2.5°C by 2050 and up to 4°C by 2080.
- Most parts of Rwanda are projected to experience an increase in precipitation with more intense rainfalls.
- The rainy seasons will be shorter and more intense. Rainfall is likely to become more erratic.
- The South and South-East of Rwanda is expected to have more intense and frequent droughts.

A changing climate puts the manufacturing industry at RISK

- Longer dry seasons cause a delay in the flowering of coffee. Less rain in March prolongs the ripening process of coffee cherries. This may lead to the inability to fulfill contractual agreements for product delivery.
- Shorter harvesting periods can cause higher peaks in tea and coffee processing than the processing capacity allows, resulting in spoilage of raw produce and thus business losses.
- Prolonged dry periods may damage varieties of drought-sensitive tea bushes leading to less supply of tea and business losses.
- Availability/costs of energy sources for powering the energy-intensive tea drying processes may be constrained/increased by droughts, heat waves and flooding.

Source: Rwanda Baseline Study on climate change adaptation in the private sector from 2014 which is accessible through the adelphi website.

What ADAPTATION to climate change means for ENTERPRISES

Ensuring BUSINESS CONTINUITY by BUILDING RESILIENCE to negative climate impacts

Creating COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE through positive side-effects of adaptation measures, e.g. by increasing efficiency, creating reputational effects

Creating BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES from climate change through NEW PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Climate change adaptation MEASURES are available for the manufacturing industry

Short- and medium-term measures

- Improved irrigation systems
- Pest control
- Mulching
- Introducing shade trees and using them as windbreaks
- Planting of cover crops
- Water harvesting / terracing

Long-term measures

- Capacity building of employees / workers on climate change impacts
- Mapping of climate data
- Developing / planting drought and disease resistant tea/coffee varieties
- Diversifying out of coffee and/or shift production to more suitable areas
- Communication and joint action in the value chain
- Building resilient infrastructures (e.g. drainage system at company premises)

More information on adaptation measures for the coffee industry is available at the Coffee&Climate website and the 4CAssociation website. Information on the adaptation in the tea industry is available at the Ethical Tea Partnership website.
A beverage company has started its own maize farm with an efficient irrigation system reducing their dependence on rain and contributing to a steady supply and quality of maize.

Small tea farms have formed a saving initiative for procuring a rain-fed water tank that will be shared among them making a shortage of supply in case of drought less likely.

Tea companies are using tea plants that are more robust against weather extremes than older varieties contributing to a reliable supply of tea leaves.

**PREPARE for climate change – TAKE ACTION and adapt**

The self-assessment tool for climate change adaptation for companies is accessible on [www.climate-expert.org](http://www.climate-expert.org)
The GIZ global programme ‘Strengthening the Capacities of the Private Sector to Adapt to Climate Change’ (from 2014 until 2017) supports associations, private enterprises and consultants in their efforts for climate change adaptation. Under the project pilot activities with private sector actors will be implemented in Bangladesh, Central America, Morocco, and Rwanda.

Our offer for businesses
- Individual climate change adaptation assessments
- Trainings on climate change adaptation and access to adaptation finance
- Value chain analyses on adaptation

Our offer for public authorities
- Providing awareness raising materials on climate change adaptation in the private sector
- Dialogue rounds with private sector actors on climate change adaptation

Our offer for associations
- Training of Trainers on climate change adaptation assessments of companies
- Providing awareness raising materials on climate change adaptation in the private sector

Our offer for financial institutions
- Dialogue round on financing needs of private sector actors
- Matchmaking between companies seeking funding for adaptation measures and financing institutions

Get in touch

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