CIRCULAR FOOD SYSTEMS FOR RWANDA

AFRICAN CIRCULAR ECONOMY NETWORK



CIRCULAR FOOD SYSTEMS FOR RWANDA
PROGRAMME IMPACT

INTRODUCTION

The Africa Circular Economy Network (ACEN), in partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI), the CPCIC, and Resonance are supporting Rwandan businesses to transition from linear to circular food systems through the ground-breaking Circular Food Systems for Rwanda (CIRF) programme. The programme is supported by the IKEA Foundation.

Thanks to the programme, **370 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)** have been engaged through circular economy networking and knowledge-sharing events, and **20 SMEs across Rwanda have received technical support** to adopt the circular economy into their business models. Participating SMEs also received **1:1 business devevelopment & marketing support** to help them become investment-ready and strengthen their business operations. The SMEs also exchanged with and learnt from other companies both within and outside the country, including a visit to Kenya.

The four year programme also established a **multi- stakeholder platform**, co-chaired by **the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources** and **the Ministry of Environment**, to facilitate dialogue on circular food systems, create system change and improve the enabling environment for circular economy practitioners. Through the platform, SMEs had the chance to "Meet the Banker" and learn how to obtain certification.

Learn more at **acen.africa**



Circularity has improved our revenue by turning banana residues into ingredients for new products. What was once waste is now a resource, benefiting both our business and the community by creating profits and supporting food security.

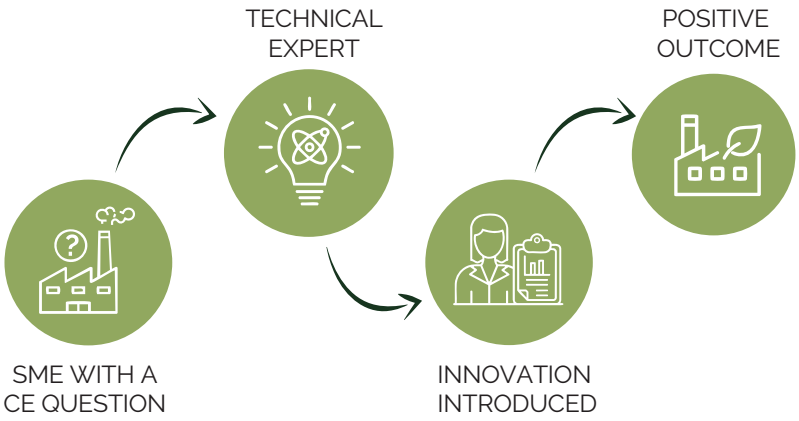
Enode Nduwayezu
Co-founder of ZEAN

ZEAN is a banana processing company located in Musanze, Rwanda.

PROGRAMME TARGET

The programme supported SMEs that either:

- **Have the circular economy** at the core of their business model
- **Are in transition towards** a circular economy model



PROGRAMME IMPACT

21 new circular economy products and services have been created.

4 national policies have been revised to embrace circular economy principles.

10 SMEs reported new revenue streams from new products or services.

9 SMEs achieved operational cost savings by adopting learnings from the technical assistance.

73 new green jobs have been created.

All 20 SMEs significantly improved their circular economy knowledge after completing the technical assistance.

74% of the SMEs reported spill over from technical assistance to the surrounding community through training and knowledge sharing.

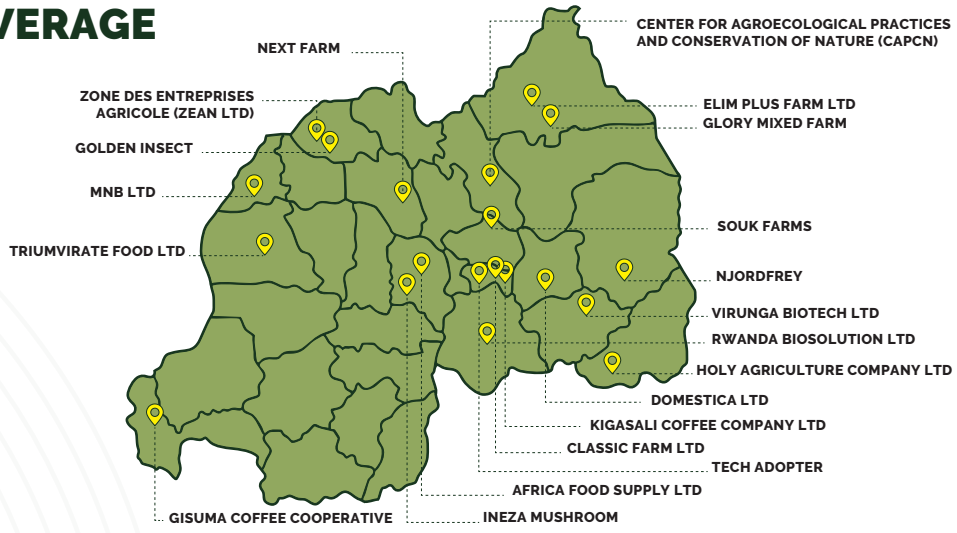
In addition, the Africa Circular Economy Network developed a number of resources with support from project partners:

A circularity **assessment tool** tailor-made to companies and organisations supporting food system businesses in East Africa.

A circular economy product development **roadmap** for agro-processing companies.

PROGRAMME COVERAGE

The Circular Food Systems for Rwanda programme worked intensively with 20 SMEs across Rwanda.



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