



Focus: Cows

Location: Rwanda

Project: Jersey Inka Nziza 2

People supported:
72,000 people

Cost:
£1 Million
(£14 Per person)

Duration:
3 Years (Extension)
(Feb 2019 – Jan 2022)

Where we're working...



The Issues

Agriculture is of vital importance to the economy of Rwanda: over 80% of the Rwandan population depend on small-scale agriculture for their livelihoods. However, productivity is low, and many people live in poverty. 44% of children under the age of 5 are stunted due to malnutrition.

Cow's milk can provide essential nutrients for growing children and adults alike, and a vital income for poor family farmers. However, feed, land size, farmer skills and breeds remain barriers to higher milk production. Many farmers do not have enough land to grow sufficient fodder, and irregular rainfall affects production. The disorganisation of the milk market is further challenging dairy farmers, with Milk Collection Centres under-utilised and weak co-operatives failing to secure fair prices for their members.

When the Jersey Inka Nziza project began, the basics of cattle breeding had to be improved. There were far too few artificial insemination (AI) technicians to meet demand, and poor cow genetics exacerbated the cycle of poverty and low milk yields.

"My children and nieces and nephews much prefer the Jersey milk... its better quality and creamier!" - Jeanette

How Send a Cow helps

Inka Nziza means Good Cow in Kinyarwanda. Send a Cow is training thousands of family farmers and AI technicians, and capturing data to define what a 'good cow' for Rwanda means.

Send a Cow Rwanda works with 12,000 family farmers in 300 groups, to improve dairy cow productivity, animal welfare and family nutrition, in partnership with the RJAHS. Farmers learn how to better care for their cows, from fodder to calf rearing, to clean milk and breeding. They benefit from training in sustainable farming techniques and enterprise, increasing crop productivity and ensuring that families get a fairer deal for their milk.

Working with the Rwandan Agricultural Board, Send a Cow are capturing data to generate evidence of what makes a 'good cow' for Rwanda, with a view to changing perceptions and improving family nutrition large scale. We are also reskilling and re-equipping AI technicians so that they are better at their job, and can improve cow genetics across Rwanda.

When bred with Jersey cows, local cows improve in resilience and milk production, providing essential nutrition for growing children, and vital income and manure for poor smallholder farmers. This project focuses simultaneously on both research and training, which are working together to improve thousands of lives.

Before working with Send a Cow

25%

of farmers can sell 10 litres of milk per day from a well managed cow

Expected Impact of the Project

50%

of farmers can sell 10 litres of milk per day from a well managed cow



Jeanette's niece enjoying nutritious milk