Agriculture Department

The District is estimated to have over 1503.29sq Km. the area cultivated is only 50%. The District has favorable climatic conditions which allow the growth of a wide variety of crops - both food and cash crops. Major cash crops include coffee, gingers, palm oil while food crops include maize, bananas, beans and cassava. More over Buhigwe district has got potential areas for irrigation and food production potentials as it is indicated in the tables 8 and 9 below

Potential Areas for Irrigation in the District

COUNCIL	**BUHIGWE DC**
Potential area for irrigation (Ha)	600 Ha
On-going drip irrigation scheme coverage (Ha)	3.4Ha
Total	**603.4Ha**

Agricultural Extension Officers.

According to the agriculture policy, every village and a ward should have a single extension officer, while in the district level there should be 8 officers in eight units of extension, statistics, irrigation engineer, land planning and horticulture.

Agricultural Staff Strength includes;

S/N	**CADRE**	**REQURED**	**AVAILLABLE**	**DEFFICITY**
1	Agricultral Officer	3	1	2
2	Agricultral Field offier II	44	0	44
3	Agricultral Field offier I	20	6	14
4	Agro-Engeneer II(Irrig)	1	0	1
5	Agro- Engeneer II(Impl)	1	1	0
6	Agro- Engeneer II(Land use)	2	0	2
7	Cooperative Officer II	7	2	5

ENROLLED PEASANTS PER CROPS

SN	**Cash Crops**	**Food CROPS**
FARM SIZE	**N/HH**	**N/HH**
<2 HA=20%	**6,782.6**	**6,782.6**
3-4 HA=60%	**20,347.8**	**20,347.8**
5+HA=20%	**6,782.6**	**6,782.6**

Food status in Buhigwe

PERIOD	**REQUIRED(T)**	**AVAILABLE(T)**	**EXCESS**	**REMARKS**
2016/2017	Carbohydrate-61,042. Proteine-25,434.	222,961. 25,491.	Excess-161,919. Shortage-Nil	Execss are sold.

Markets, Storage facilities and other technologies.

The government provides storage facilities to the farmers as well as marketing channels in which crops are either sold beyond the boundaries or within the boundaries.

S/N	**STORES**	**NUMBER**
1	Agricultural Markets	10
2	Storage godowns	4
3	Coffee pulpery Units(CPUs)	8
4	Sunflower oil processing machine	1
5	Agric.Ward Resource center	1
6	Tractors	2
7	Power tillers(Small Tractors)	5
8	Strategic Market	1

Crop Production status 2015/2016.

The District produces crops at annual average.in tones.

S/N	CROPS	AREA COVERED IN HA	PRODUCTION IN KG
1	Coffee	469	633,000
2	Maize	15,779	31,558,000
3	Beans	12,927	15,512,000
4	Hort.crops	1,074	3,981,000
5	Cassava	17,743	124,201,000
6	Banana	10,628	159,420,000

Government Agric.Inputs Subsidies 2016/2017

S/N	ITEM	REQUIRED
1	Fertilizers	30%
2	Seeds	30%

Co-operatives

The District has a total number of 8 registered Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies(AMCOS) which has 4154 members. All societies are active. Also the District has three saccos.as indicated in the table below.

AMCOS&SACCOS

S/N	SOCIETY	QUANTITY
1	Agriculture and Marketing cooperative Societies(AMCOS)	8
2	Saving and Credit Cooperative Society(Saccos)	3

GENERAL AGRICLUTURAL INVESTMENT

The District is estimated to have over 1503.29sq Km. The area cultivated is only 50%. The District has favorable climatic conditions which allow the growth of a wide variety of crops - both food and cash crops.

The insignificant expansion of cultivable area is attributed to inadequate application of modern agricultural method. There is therefore an urgent need to encourage investment in the use of tractors so as to expand the area and increase production.

The soils of Buhigwe District have potential fertility which can support a variety of crops but soils loose fertility after several years of use. However fertilizers are not widely used in the District resulting in low yield per hectare. The use of organic fertilizers such as manure, compost and legumes particularly in highland areas, is highly recommended and emphasized in order to retain and increase soil fertility.

SPECIFIC CROPS FOR INVESTMENT;

COFFEE; With growing demand for organic coffee in the world market, in Buhigwe district there is opportunity for establishment of large scale coffee estate especially to an improved varieties in high lands area. Also establishment of curing industries.

RICE; With existing areas suitable for irrigation in Buhigwe District, paddy production can attract other marketing chain like processing industries ie, rice hulling, packing, etc.

SPICES; the district has high potential for production of spices, existing spices grown at Buhigwe District is Ginger. Ginger has huge demand in Europe, Japan, North America and Middle East.

OIL CROPS;

- oilpalm;There are some areas in Buhigwe, which need some emphases on oil palm crop production. The crop produces oil which is rich in vitamin “A”and other products for human health and economwise.

- sunflower; The District has also a room for sunflower production to feed our processing machine present.

SUGAR CANE; currently, there is huge demand of sugar in the market. There are excellent opportunities in the establishment of new sugar estates along Maragalasi River. Also establishing sugar processing and ethanol production industries.

MAIZE; Buhigwe district has high potential for large scale production of maize especially to intermediate and low land. Other opportunities includes maize flour milling and packing as well as animal production

IRRIGATION FARMING

The District has plenty of water from the River Malagarasi and other numerous river valleys in the District. By introducing irrigation schemes could increase agricultural production. The high irrigation potential that exist in the District should be explored and exploited for increased crop production.

LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES DEPARMENT

LIVESTOCK UNIT

Buhigwe District Council has 2 divisions, 20 wards, and 44 villages. The District is endowed with a number of livestock especially cattle (dairy and beef improved breeds) and indigenous types. Others livestock includes goats, sheep and pigs and poultry. The need to expand the production in this sector is highly needed especially in modern livestock keeping. The expansion of this sector must go hand in hand with disease control. Current figures for specific species includes cattle 21,515, dairy cattle 1,500, Goats 5170, Goats 45,935, dairy goats 30, Pigs 16,690, poultry 557,180

The main function of the unit includes the following:

(i) Facilitate the dissemination of extension recommendation based on verified research findings under livestock farmers management condition

(ii) Ensure accurate and timely and delivery of technical packages to livestock farming communities through subject matter specialist service providers

(iii) Ensure the technologies develop are timely disseminated to target groups using the correct channel.

Dairy Farming:

Farmers in 10 villages have been keeping Dairy cattle since 1988. Since then, they have been using natural mating (BULLS) for breeding purposes. Currently, dairy cattle farming have become an important component in agriculture because apart from milk production, farm yard manure is used to improve soils. There are about 1500 dairy cattle in the district and 476 ara small scale farmers.

The application of Artificial insemination is an important and affordable technology for improving the available dairy cows in rural areas. It is cheap and efficient if feeding and good husbandry is practiced. Using AI, the production per cow per day can reach 7-8 litres when other factors are maintained.

However, currently the district has no milk processing plant, this is giving room for further investment and establishment of small scale milk processing plant. The supply of good

quality products of milk will increase the human nutritional status and raise income. The district has limited supply of good quality milk; therefore there is high demand of milk.

Table. Cattle distribution

Na	Village	Number of dairy cattle holders	Number of dairy cows
1	Kitambuka	120	217
2	Mnanila	179	440
3	Nyakimue	34	65
4	Mwayaya	75	179
5	Muhinda	19	32
6	Mubanga	16	24
7	Nyaruboza	9	11
8	Biharu	6	6
9	Kasumo	6	6
10	Kalege	6	6
11	Muyama	6	7
	Total	**476**	**993**

Piggery, Goat and sheep

The ecological characteristic of the district offer opportunities to respond to the increasing demand of meat. To date there is no improved pig farming though there is conducive environment for pig production. Commercial goat and Sheep production for meat and milk is non-existent in-spite of increasing demand of their products, including skin and hides.

Poultry industries

The district has more than 557,180 indigenous species of poultry that found at house hold level. Opportunity exists in establishment of improved poultry breeds. Other opportunities include production of Animal feeds and feeding facilities. There are small scale hatcheries units owned by small holder farmers.

FISHERIES UNIT

Fisheries and aquaculture are among of a source of livelihood at Buhigwe district council. Societies along river Malagarasi involves in artisanal fishing. For conserving and protecting environment, Buhigwe DC is promoting aquaculture since aquaculture is currently playing important part in boosting community's fish production and in meeting rising demand for fishery products. Aquaculture has increased fish production for human nutrition and poverty alleviation in many rural areas in Buhigwe District(

Fish farming

Buhigwe District council comprises 20 wards in which eleven wards are involving in fish farming. Tilapia and catfish are most cultured species due to easy availability of fingerlings and management.

Total of 45 ponds have been constructed in above mentioned wards in which ten wards involves in Tilapia farming and only one ward involves in catfish farming. Aquaculture systems are still extensive due to inadequate knowledge in fish farming and low capital for investment in intensive aquaculture system.

Fisheries unit is providing awareness in improved fish farming technologies in order to improve aquaculture production.

Fig 1: Fish farmers harvesting fish at one of their ponds.

Fig 2: fish farmers showing fish after harvesting

Fig 3: Weight measurement of fish and auction of fish after harvesting