



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

RuralInvest

Fostering access
to finance for rural
entrepreneurs

FAO Investment Centre

Supporting rural investment

RuralInvest is a **free toolkit** designed to support field technicians in their work with entrepreneurs by allowing the systematization and development of bankable and sustainable business proposals.

Elements of the toolkit:

User-friendly software to develop business plans

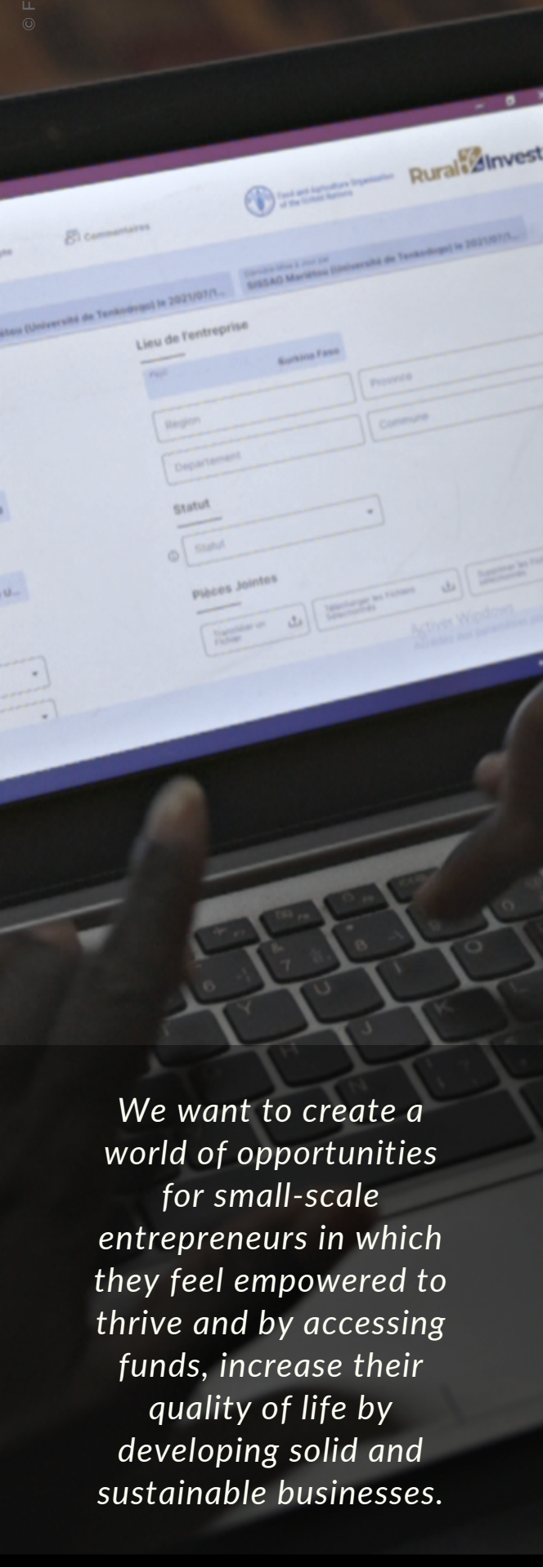
An e-Learning course to master the methodology

Tailored face-to-face training to develop national capacities

User manuals and training materials

Worldwide community of users

We want to create a world of opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurs in which they feel empowered to thrive and by accessing funds, increase their quality of life by developing solid and sustainable businesses.



What sets RuralInvest apart?

Our approach

RuralInvest's participatory bottom-up approach ensures that farmers take ownership in their projects. Business plans are developed through interactive group sessions, use of flipcharts, and constant communication between RuralInvest users and the farmers. We aim to build up national capacities by generating pools of users and trainers from national institutions who can implement the methodology and undertake RuralInvest activities.

The RIV20 software

This is user-friendly, free software that supports all types of small- and medium-scale rural businesses and translates participatory data collection into professional quality business plans. It is open source and works perfectly both online and offline.



What sets RuralInvest apart?

The users

RuralInvest users come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Field technicians, extension agents, members of universities or training centres, business plan development consultants, or financial specialists can become experts in RuralInvest. The users understand which data are needed to develop a business plan, how to collect it and insert it in the software, and how to analyse the business plans generated.

The results

Harmonized and visually appealing reports make it easy to evaluate and compare business proposals with solid capital budgeting and performance indicators calculated automatically.

Who can use RuralInvest?

Development partners

Using RuralInvest in enterprise development and grant components provides project teams and field staff with a systematic approach to develop high-quality business proposals that can be easily customized and integrated into project operations.

Individuals

If you are an extension agent, an international development organization employee, a member of a university or a training centre, a business plan development consultant, or a financial specialist, you can download the software, take our free e-learning courses, and receive certification badges.

National institutions

National institutions strengthen the positive impact of RuralInvest at the country level by training professionals to use the toolkit to support entrepreneurs. Organizations that decide to partner with RuralInvest will have complete support from the RuralInvest team.



ARE YOU A RESOURCE OR DEVELOPMENT PARTNER, A MEMBER OF A NATIONAL INSTITUTION OR AN ORGANIZATION THAT SEEKS TO SUPPORT SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SCALE RURAL INVESTMENTS?

Join us!

Contact:

FAO Investment Centre

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fao.org/in-action/rural-invest

fao.org/support-to-investment

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, Italy

RuralInvest e-Learning course

elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=754



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