



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agriculture Newsletter

Rwanda and Uganda

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INTRODUCTION

Dear readers,

Here is the 2nd edition of the newsletter of the Netherlands embassy's agricultural office for Rwanda and Uganda, with news from January and February 2018. With this newsletter we will inform you about all developments in the agricultural sector in Rwanda and Uganda. You are receiving this newsletter because you have been previously in touch with the embassy either with requests for information or because you have visited us. If you have any remarks or suggestions for this newsletter or if you don't wish to receive this newsletter, please inform us on KIG-LNV@minbuza.nl.

I. CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Workshop on public private partnerships in horticulture

The Netherlands has broad experience with public private cooperation. For 9 sectors, where the Netherlands stands out in the world, Public Private Partnerships were institutionalized in the Topsector structure. In these Topsectors Government, Private Sector and Research Institutes (Universities) work together to drive innovation. Among those 9 sectors is the Topsector Horticulture and Starting Materials.

EVENTS CALENDER

25 May 2018; East African Business Dialogue
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague

28 May – 1 June 2018; Food and Nutrition Security
Exchange days, different locations in NL

1 June 2018; Food First Conference
Utrecht <http://www.foodfirst.eu/index.php?a=program>

11 June 2018; Greentech Amsterdam Summit
Rai Amsterdam <https://www.greentech.nl/>

12 – 14 June 2018; Greentech Trade Show
Rai Amsterdam <https://www.greentech.nl/>

20-22 June 2018; MVEurope 2018
Jaarbeurs Utrecht <https://www.viv.net/events/viv-europe-2018-utrecht>

11-18 July 2018; International Conference for Agri –
Journalism, Wageningen <http://www.dutchroots.info/>

In February 2017 the board of the Topsector Horticulture and starting materials visited Rwanda for a fact-finding mission on the next steps for development of the horticulture sector in Rwanda and how the Netherlands embassy could contribute with the bilateral Food and Nutrition Security program. During that mission the Dutch Vice Minister of Agriculture extended an invitation to a Rwandan delegation of public and private stakeholders to visit the Netherlands and learn and share experiences on public private partnerships.

In preparation of the mission to the Netherlands an expert was sent from the Netherlands to facilitate a workshop with horticulture stakeholders. The workshop took place on 18 January and had three main objectives: (1) to share insights from Public Private Partnership design from the Netherlands; (2) run a work-session to contextualize for the Rwandan horticulture sector; (3) Inform about the upcoming PPP mission and get feedback to make custom-fit based on participant's needs.

The mission to the Netherlands is planned to take place in June 2018 and will be used to further develop two specific public private partnerships between Dutch and Rwandan Institutions, a plant extraction expertise centre and a strawberry expertise centre.



Preparation workshop for the PPP mission

Horticulture Connect Conference Kigali

In cooperation with the UK High Commission, the National Agricultural Export Board (NAEB) and the Rwandan Development Board (RDB), the Netherlands embassy organized a successful Horticulture Connect Conference in Kigali on 14 and 15 February. Several importing companies from the UK and the Netherlands came to Rwanda for the event. On the first day a delegation of Flora Holland visited Bella Flowers (producer of roses) and a delegation of amongst others Van Oers United, DelMonte, Sainsburies and Spitafields visited Sunripe farm (production of vegetables and Habanero peppers) and an avocado farm. Besides the farm visits, the delegation also visited the airport cold rooms, installed by Geerlofs Refrigeration BV with funding from the Netherlands in 2007.

15 February was the conference day in the Kigali Convention Centre, with inspiring presentations, discussions and B2B matchmaking. The event taught us that while there remain some steps to be taken and producers have a lot to learn, Rwanda is certainly heading in the right direction. The market in the EU for fresh produce is still growing, especially the market for exotic products. The European importers gave the advice to Rwandan producers to learn more about the European market and its specific requirements in terms of products, varieties and quality standards and to adjust the production accordingly. During the event Van Oers United announced that they made a deal with a Rwandan producer for a 6 month pilot to supply 5t of fresh beans per week. <http://bit.ly/20z2A33>



Flora Holland delegation visiting Bella Flowers

Best Farmer Competition 2017 & Harvest Money Expo 2018 Kampala

Interventions by the Embassy Food Security program in the agricultural sector have built a solid reputation for the Netherlands as Uganda's preferred, reliable and trusted agricultural development partner. In addition to the ongoing Food Security projects, the embassy co-sponsors the Uganda Best Farmer Competition. Other sponsors are the Ugandan media house Vision Group, DFCU Bank (where Rabobank is a shareholder), the Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) and Koudijs Animal Nutrition.

The Best farmer contestants are selected from 10 agricultural regions of the country. The winners of the contest receive a cash prize and an agricultural study tour to the Netherlands. Furthermore, their farms are used as demonstration centers and for the organization of masterclasses.

The Best Farmer competition has evolved over the past 3 years with several positive spinoffs such as The Irrigation MasterClass and the Annual Harvest Money Expo/Exhibition.

The 2nd Edition of the Harvest Money Expo took place in the Mandela Stadium from 16 - 18 February 2018. The Netherlands Embassy organized a Holland Pavilion together with NEC BV and Agriprofocus Uganda. Besides 9 Dutch-Ugandan and 1 Dutch-Kenyan company, 12 companies from

the Netherlands came to Uganda for the event. The companies showcased products and services across several agricultural sectors in the Holland Pavilion and were able to make many new contacts. The overall event was very well received by the participating companies in terms of the organization and quality of the visitors.

The results of the Best Farmers Awards and Harvest Money Expo are numerous. From weekly advertisements in the newspapers for all sponsors and live broadcasting of the Best Farmer Award Event, to almost 30.000 visitors to the Harvest Money Expo. Many business leads and concrete deals were made. For example, the milk processing container from Scherjon, that was brought to Uganda with co-financing from the Netherlands Enterprise Organization was ordered 5 times during the three days of the event. The Holland Pavilion also hosted several of Uganda's Best Farmers, who also did great business during the event and 3 of our Flagship projects on Food and Nutrition Security in Uganda; the SNV-TIDE project on Dairy Sector development, the IFDC project on Value Chain Development in the potato and rice sector and the ISSD-project on Seed Sector Development.



Scherjon milk processing container @ Harvest Money Expo

DOB Equity visit to Rwanda

On 28 February 2018, the Dutch ambassador to Rwanda hosted a lunch for the board of DOB Equity with the head of investment promotion from RDB, the CEO of Bank of Kigali, the CEO of Urwego Opportunity Bank, the MD of Waka Waka Rwanda and the GM of Agribusiness Solutions Rwanda. DOB equity is a Dutch Family Fund for Impact investments in East Africa. The complete board of fund was visiting Rwanda to learn about investment climate, explore investment opportunities and follow up on some concrete leads that they already had. The lunch provided a good opportunity for all parties to learn and share experiences on the investment climate and investment opportunities in Rwanda. DOB Equity has four priority sectors: energy, logistic, Agri-food and health.



Group picture with Dob Equity Board at the residence of the ambassador

II. AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Rwanda makes progress on continental agric plan

Rwanda got the highest score on 'Agricultural Transformation in Africa', as it was the best-performing country in implementing the seven commitments of the June 2014 Malabo Declaration. Rwanda scored 6.1/10 (the benchmark being 3.91/10 to be 'on track', and Ethiopia was second with 5.3/10). This could however be even higher, as Rwanda's agric financing stands at 7.5%, which makes it more difficult to implement more efficient programs. Foreign investment could greatly help in this. More info please visit <http://bit.ly/2DzciJA>

Rwanda Govt unveils new initiative to address agric challenges

A new initiative of MinAgri to address challenges faced by farmers consisting of creating partnership with Agriculture universities for them to conduct researches on agriculture sector. The students will in return acquire practical skills from researches made. The University of Kibungo, UNIK, is already running agriculture projects like seed and plantlets making, crop irrigation, use of agriculture mechanization equipment. More info, please visit <http://bit.ly/2GMJ3my>

Rwanda action against Fall Army Worm

The government in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has launched a countrywide campaign to install traps which lure and catch moths behind fall armyworm (FAW) reproduction. The technique is environmentally friendly, easy to use and affordable. The intervention worth \$ 284,000 (about Rwf230 million) is a timely move and could prevent a similar armyworm catastrophe, which left farmers counting losses last year. For more info please visit <http://bit.ly/2FtGWHa>

Musanze potato plant to increase production

Holland Fairfoods, A Dutch-Rwandan potato chips plant in Musanze, producing Winnaz chips for the Rwandan and Ugandan market is set to scale up the production five-fold. The plant started production with support of the Government of the Netherlands. The upgrade is a result of partnership between the factory and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Private Sector Driven Agricultural Growth Project (PSDAG).

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/read/227841/>

Rwanda and Uganda taking careful steps in legalising GMO's

The number of hungry people around the world grew from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016, according to Food and Agriculture Organisation. And, with the world's population expected to hit the nine billion mark in 2050, the threat of hunger will remain, at least for the foreseeable future.

It is in this context that the governments of Rwanda and Uganda are considering biotechnology as a strategy to help feed the world – amid continued adverse effects of climate change.

While the debate in Rwanda on legalizing GMO's is just starting, Uganda has already taken some steps in adopting genetically modified (GM) varieties. A number of confined field trials have been conducted: for example, genetically modified (GM) bananas resistant against bacterial wilt and GM potatoes resistant against late Blight disease. In November 2017 Parliament passed a bill that seeks to provide a regulatory framework that facilitates the safe development and application of biotechnology, research, development and release of genetically modified organisms. In December 2017 however, president Museveni denied to sign the bill. In a letter to speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga, the president outlines that he is sending the bill back to parliament to clarify among other issues, its title, patent rights of indigenous farmers and sanctions for scientists who mix GMOs with indigenous crops and animals. A group of civil society organisations has expressed concern on the bill saying that its content is too much on promotion of GMO instead of regulation. Likely it will still take some time before a final bill will be approved in Uganda. For more information please visit:

- <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/read/228639/>
- https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1465455/uganda-ready-gmos
- <https://www.ip-watch.org/2017/11/03/uganda-parliament-passes-bill-promote-use-genetically-modified-materials-biotech/>
- <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Museveni-declines-to-sign-GMO-bill-into-law/688334-4243964-wfynmqz/index.html>
- <https://geneticliteracyproject.org/2018/01/09/blight-resistant-gmo-potatoes-reduce-pesticide-use-uganda/>
- <https://www.volkskrant.nl/kijkverder/2018/voedselzaak/artikelen/bananenrepubliek-oeganda-omarmt-de-genetisch-gemodificeerde-banaan/>

III. SEED SECTOR

IN UGANDA

Grain traders in region rush for low-cost Uganda maize
Kampala has sold nearly 38,000 tonnes of maize worth \$15.2 million in December last year, after a very successful harvest, with middlemen being able to resell at a large profit as Uganda was selling their maize at around half the international price. 30,500 tonnes were sold to Kenya ; 5,405 tonnes sold to Rwanda; 1,105 tonnes sold to DRC and 480 tonnes sold to Tanzania. More info please visit <http://bit.ly/2lAsUrc>

IN RWANDA

Lawmakers urge RAB to disseminate research findings to the grassroots

Rwanda is making steps towards being self-sufficient, with information being passed to farmers on how to increase their yield through using the appropriate fertilizer, spacing, and pruning methods. A 2017-2020 Seed System Strategy intends to stop the importing of hybrid seeds. The government plans to start focusing on developing local seed production. <http://bit.ly/2CsafZK>

Kamonyi maize farmers to get drying, storage facility

KOBIYAKI Cooperative, a group of maize farmers in Kamonyi District launched the construction works for a grain drying and storage facility. The farmers said that not only the facility will help them to reduce the harvest loss but also it will help them to improve the quality and quantity of their harvest. This facility is part of Farm to Market Alliance (FTMA) project implemented by Rwanda rural rehabilitation initiative and sponsored by UN World Food Programme and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). <http://bit.ly/2EWQrix>



Agricultural attaché visiting soybean cooperative with Clinton Foundation

IV. TEA & COFFEE

New rules to oversee trading in tea, coffee

Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda, as part of the Northern Corridor Infrastructure Projects, will be linked in the joint regional commodities exchange, in this case being tea and coffee. The three countries agreed on the need to run a joint commodities exchange and warehouse receipting system to ensure transparency in standards and pricing of farm produce. The 3 heads of States also agreed that each country sets up its own commodities exchange but harmonize trading regulations with the rest of The East African Community member states. <http://bit.ly/2Erhizj>

Unilever launches \$30m tea project in Nyaruguru

Nyaruguru District has 5,337 hectares of tea, producing 3,900 tonnes a year. Up to 4,231 hectares are now run by Unilever in cooperation with Woods Foundation who help the outgrowers to reach the standards for export to Europe. 813 hectares will be for a Unilever tea factory that is yet to be constructed.

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/read/225031/>



Launch of Unilever tea plantation

V. FISHERY SECTOR

Ngoma, Bugesera cooperatives reap millions from fish farming

Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme (LVEMP) has started a \$15 million project which helped the fishing community to venture into cage fish farming. This programme was implemented by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) to protect endangered water reservoirs through sustainable farming practices. This has boosted fish produce that has since doubled. However, there are only three fish feeds factories in Rwanda which do not produce enough feed. The government encourages modern investment in fish farming to increase production to satisfy both local demand and boost fish exports. <http://bit.ly/2CrivsW>

VI. POULTRY SECTOR



IN RWANDA

Rwanda to triple poultry production in Five years

Rwanda seeks to enhance poultry meat production to 100,000 tons within the next five years. This is in line with The PSTA4, the government's Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation, which will run from 2018 until 2023. Under the strategy, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (Minagri), 4 million more chickens will be brought into Rwanda's poultry sector by 2023 to add to the current 7 million chickens being reared currently. proper feeding, use of quality and effective drugs, timely and right vaccination with networking among poultry farmers are among practices to focus on to achieve this.

<http://bit.ly/2oxBHgo>

IN UGANDA

The Private Sector Investment program offered grants to international entrepreneurs that were willing to jointly invest with Dutch/local partners. The program facilitated transfer of technology, know-how/expertise and business partnerships. Local companies in emerging markets co-invested in local production facilities with their Dutch counterparts and received 50 % to 60 % grants from the The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Impala Feeds

This yet another investment in the poultry feeds sector which has just been completed. Rapid growth of the poultry sector in Uganda and the East African Community, coupled with shortages of quality poultry feeds, inspired Impala feeds to set up a new poultry feeds factory in partnership with AgroVetlink BV. The project has registered immediate success as farmers are now able to raise broilers birds to 2kg in 5 weeks. Shortages in supply of Day-Old-Chicks remain a big challenge to the sector.

Biyinzika Poultry International

Revolutionised the poultry feeds value chain by setting up the first pelleted poultry feeds manufacturing plant on the Ugandan market. The project was implemented in partnership with Ottevanger Milling BV. The company owns seven large poultry farms in addition to the feeds plant.



Biyinzika feed mill

VII. CROSS –BORDER COMMODITY EXCHANGES

Restrictions hurting intra-regional trade in food crops: Study

The low intra-regional trade along countries of the Eastern and Southern Africa Transport Corridors is mainly due to restrictions on imports and exports of agricultural products in between those countries, a study showed. Multiple testing of products for standards and lack of knowledge of export procedures by suppliers and traders, poor prices and political interference through trade restrictions on certain products are among causes of this low trade. Statistics from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) show that intra-COMESA trade currently stands at 7% of the global trade, with exports at \$8 billion as of 2016. Tea, coffee and sugar cane are among agricultural produce involved in that trade. More info please visit <http://bit.ly/2D3pgoM>

Rwanda, DR Congo implement crucial cross-border program despite hurdles

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, (COMESA) has set a simplified Trade Regime (STR) regional program launched in 2016 aiming at facilitating small-scale cross-border traders of those regions to import products not exceeding the value of US\$ 2000. This has facilitated the cross-border exchanges. A common list of eligible products has been set and a MoU has been signed between Rwanda and DR Congo to enable more growth of this cross-border trade. Foreign investors are encouraged to come and invest in the raw materials-processing industries hence enabling COMESA countries to become exporters of goods. For more info please visit <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/read/226827/>

OTHER NEWS

Amstel launched a new beer in Rwanda through local manufacturer Bralirwa, making it the second Amstel brand available to Rwandan consumers.

Rwandan consumers can now find a new brand of beer in supermarket shelves. Local food and beverages producer Bralirwa announced earlier this week the inclusion of an additional Amstel brand in its portfolio. The new beer, which will retail at RWF600 (\$0,70), is 100% malt and will be packaged in a 33cl bottle. It will also be the first non-lager beer produced by Bralirwa. According to Peter Karadjov, Bralirwa's marketing director, the new Amstel beer fills a gap in the Rwandan market where "there was a need for a 100% malt beer" from consumers who, at the same time, seek affordable products.

<https://trendtype.com/2018/03/01/new-amstel-rwanda/>



