



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agriculture Newsletter

March – May 2018

Rwanda and Uganda

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INTRODUCTION

Dear readers,

We are here to inform you with the latest updates in a 3rd edition of our Newsletter. The news and events about agriculture in Uganda and Rwanda are for March, April and May. We are always looking forward to hear from you, if you have remarks or suggestion for this newsletter please inform us on KIG-LNV@minubuza.nl

I. NEW PROJECTS

Climate Smart Agriculture in East Africa (CSA-EA)

As a response to the climate changes affecting the agriculture sector of The East African countries, a consortium made of The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and SNV, in association with Wageningen University and Research, CGIAR's Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security Program, and Agriterro set up a project called Climate Smart Agriculture for East Africa. The project was designed for 5 years (from January 2018 until December 2022) and is running in 3 East African countries namely Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague

June 2018

- 01 June 2018: [Food First Conference](#), Utrecht
- 11 June 2018: [Greentech Amsterdam Summit](#), Rai Amsterdam
- 12 – 14 June 2018: [Greentech Trade Show](#), Rai Amsterdam
- 20-22 June 2018: [MVEurope 2018](#), Jaarbeurs Utrecht
- 21 June 2018: [Speeddaten met buitenlandnetwerk](#), Den Haag
- 21-23 June 2018: [World of Coffee](#), Rai Amsterdam
- 26 June – 03 July 2018: [Kigali Agriculture Show 2018](#), Kigali

July 2018

- 10-15 July 2018: [International Conference for Agri-Journalism](#), Wageningen

September 2018

- 3-7 September 2018: [African Green Revolution Forum](#), Kigali

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The project will promote climate smart agriculture as a way to transform and reorient agricultural systems to the new realities of climate change. It provides an opportunity for smallholder farmers in East Africa to adapt their farming businesses and mitigate the negative effects of climate change. The program will deliver impact in the following areas:

1. Productive capacity and income increased for 300,000 smallholder farmers
2. Business performance improved for 50 agribusiness SMEs and 30 cooperatives (of which at least 25% is managed by women and/or youth)
3. Climate resilient sustainable food production practiced on 600,000 hectares with more carbon, energy, and water efficient production systems.

The consortium, led by SNV, provides a strong platform to not only manage and coordinate a robust CSA program, but provides targeted technical assistance to local partners and companies, research and knowledge management support, hereby contributing to a more conducive environment and joint investments in CSA food production and supply improvements. To achieve scale and support the international and Dutch efforts on climate change, the CSA-EA program will work with and through the private sector and supports public sector partners in creating the institutional environment for wide-scale adoption of CSA-practices. The consortium partners will also leverage and create synergies with other existing programs and plans, including National Climate Plans (NDCs, NAPs), World Bank (WB) and other climate lending portfolio, Geodata 4 Water and Agriculture, and the programs developed by the Dutch Embassies in the three countries mentioned above.

Hinga Weze a \$32 million agriculture project to increase farm yield of 700,000 smallholder farmers

A USAID funded project, Hinga weze, will offer \$ 32 million will support over 700,000 smallholder farmers in 10 target districts of Rwanda. The project was launched on April 26, 2018 in Bugesera District and will run up to 2022. It aims to sustainably increase smallholder farmers' income, improve the nutritional status of women and children, and increase the resilience of Rwanda's agricultural and food systems to a changing climate. The project will also help farmers with better inputs and task management for example to deal with Fall Armyworms (FAW). In the 4 districts where this project overlaps with the EKN funded HortInvest project, both projects will work together to increase impact and avoid duplication of effort. [Read more](#)

II. VARIOUS NEWS

Rwanda landslides and Cholera outbreak in Uganda killing people after heavy downpour

Since January of this year, Rwanda and Uganda have been facing heavy downpours exposing them to various disasters. People and crops have been swept away by floods and landslides especially in the Northern and Eastern province of Rwanda. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) said that more than 200 people have been killed and 200 others injured in floods since the beginning of the year. Nearly 10,000 homes, 58 roads and seven churches were also destroyed. [Read more](#)

In Uganda the floods caused by the rains have led to outbreaks of Cholera in different sites. The disease has affected 1,727 people and left 36 dead. Refugees are mainly affected. [Read more details](#)

African Continental Free Trade Area

As of last week, there is a new global trade player, the [African Continental Free Trade Area](#) (AfCFTA). On 21st March, 44 African heads of state and government officials met in Kigali, Rwanda, to sign the framework to establish this initiative of the [African Union](#). The AfCFTA will come into effect 30 days after ratification by the parliaments of at least 22 countries. [Read more](#)

Following the signature of this agreement Somalia and Tunisia will become members of COMESA by June this year. At the same time COMESA will go paperless with the launch of its digital free trade area (FTA). Somalia and Tunisia will join after having fulfilled the terms and conditions of accession to the COMESA Treaty. [More details can be found here](#)

Market watch: Tomatoes, onions prices up in Kigali

Prices of commodities like tomatoes, onion and bananas have been doubled in the last few months. Heavy rains witnessed in April are among reasons behind this price increase. Apples price have also been raised due to their scarcity in the country. However some other commodities prices like maize flour, beef and beans have remained stable. Rwanda's inflation is expected to average at 5.0 per cent in 2018 compared to 4.9 per cent realized in 2017. According to Rwanda National Institute of Statistics, the urban consumer price index (CPI) increased by 0.7 per cent on a monthly basis. The annual average rate between March 2018 and March 2017 is 3.2 per cent. [Read more](#)

Transform Africa Summit 2018

On May 7th to 10th, Rwanda hosted The Transform Africa Summit 2018 in its fourth edition. It attracted over 4,000 delegates from across the continent and beyond and bring together Heads of State, First Ladies, ministers and government officials. Their discussions were centered around the theme; [“Accelerating Africa’s Single Digital Market”](#). The summit explores ways of enhancing socio-economic development on the African through ICT. Transform Africa Summit’s aim is to enable Member States to become more competitive, agile, open and innovative smart economies with the most favorable business climates that attracts large-scale investments, reward entrepreneurship and enable fast growth and exports, leveraging ICT innovations to transform African nations into smart societies. [Read more](#)

Rwanda to host major continental agric forum

As Transform Africa Summit 2018 was being held in Kigali, it has been announced that Rwanda (first time) will host the 2018 African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) organized by the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). The forum is scheduled on September 3-7 and will run under the theme [“Lead, Measure, Grow: Enabling new pathways to turn smallholders into sustainable agribusinesses”](#). Rwanda was selected to host the forum due in large part, to its leadership role in efforts to transform agriculture both at home and across the continent. In the beginning of this year, the country was recognized by the African Union Commission as the top performing nation on the continent in the pursuit of agricultural goals and targets, scoring 6.1 out of a possible 10.

Environment ministry leads drive against disposable water bottles

As we are approaching The World’s environment day due June 5th, with a theme “Beat plastic pollution”, The Rwandan ministry of Environment announced that their institution will no longer use disposable plastics such as water bottles, cups and straws. They will instead switch to sustainable and reusable alternatives such as glasses and refillable water dispensers. This will help to reduce waste, and protect our health and environment. The ministry encourage all other institutions to follow the drive for effective results. This new anti-plastic push comes ten years after the country banned plastic bags. [Read more](#)

Africa Improved Foods celebrates 1 year anniversary

On 22 and 23 May 2018 Africa Improved Foods (AIF) is celebrating its one year anniversary. As part of the celebrations, Ambassador de Man hosted a dinner with journalists at her residence. #AIF is a joint venture between the Government of Rwanda and a consortium of Royal DSM, Dutch Development Bank (FMO), British Development Bank (CDC) and IFC, for the production of nutritious food for children aged 0-3yrs and pregnant and lactating women.



Picture: Ambassador de Man and André van der Elsen – DSM External Relations

One year down the line, the factory is operating at full capacity, producing 1,5 million meals every day. The AIF factory created 300 jobs and works with 9,000 smallholders in Rwanda for the supply of maize. To source sufficient quality maize from Rwanda remains a challenge. AIF has the ambition to source 100% of the maize from Rwanda. At full capacity the factory needs 30,000tonnes maize.

III. FINANCIAL SECTOR

DOB Equity invests in Kigali grain company

DOB has completed its investment in Sarura commodities ltd, a Rwandan grain trading company. Sarura commodities not only links the smallholder farmers to reliable input and service providers, but also provides training on postharvest management to farmers. This will allow Sarura to strengthen its storage infrastructure, support its sourcing platform and scale up its operations. DOB Equity has offices in Kenya, Tanzania and in the Netherlands. It is also looking forward to increase

its firm presence in other East African countries like Uganda and Burundi. [Read more](#)

Dutch MASSIF Impact Fund, Financing First When Many Fear to Go, hits 1.0 Billion EUR

The Dutch government's MASSIF Fund, managed by development bank FMO, a bank that aims to take early high investment risks and acts as a catalyst for the growth of the private financial sector and financial inclusion in developing countries, has in April passed the 1.0 billion EUR in total investments since its inception in 2006.

Over the last decade, the MASSIF Fund has made 425 investments in 50 countries, which has helped to finance over one million micro-entrepreneurs, such as small traders, female entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers, and close to 50.000 small and medium-sized enterprises. The fund's net annual return on investment over this period has been a healthy 3% facilitating the expansion of its role in investing in developing countries around the globe. African countries accounted for around 40%, or 228 million EUR of MASSIF's total global investment commitments of 562 million EU in 2017.

Rwanda benefits from this portfolio by means of the investment in Africa Improved Food and in Uganda the MASSIF fund has invested in two financial institutions; EFC Uganda Limited and Development Internat. Desjardins.

IV. CASSAVA & MAIZE SECTOR

Fall armyworm pesticides now killing honey bees



Photo credit: ©FAO

As a response to the outbreak of the Fall Armyworm disease in maize, pesticides have been used. Its use threatened honey bees in large numbers resulting in drop of honey production by 50%. Farmers are wondering what to do in order to save their bees and maizes at the same time. FAO and the Rwandan Government are considering the use of integrated pest management. Trying natural remedies and use of traps with pheromones are among efforts to ensure food security while preserving our biodiversity. [Read more](#)
The Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS) mobile application has been launched by FAO for early detection of Fall Armyworm and guiding best response. [Details here.](#)

Cassava, maize farmers in Rwanda count losses as prices drop

Cassava and maize farmers are struggling in finding a market for their excess produce. This resulted into selling the produce at a lower price. Cassava yield increased from 1,5 tonnes per hectare to 2,6 tonnes per hectare which equal to 13% production increase. Beside market challenge, the farmers are also facing a limited capacity to store their produce. The instability of the neighboring countries Congo and Burundi that affect the export of those produces. [Read more.](#)

V. FISHERIES SECTOR

EAC states launches operation to save the Nile perch

Representatives of Uganda, Kenya & Tanzania have launched the operation " [Save the Nile perch](#)" in an effort to save the fish from extinction as a result of overfishing in Lake Victoria. A \$1.8 million budget for the initiative has been approved by the Council of Ministers for the Lake Victoria Fishing Organization with each country contributing \$600,000. The initiative comes to address the issue of a reduced perch fishing from 1,065 tonnes per day to 171 tonnes per day, posing a threat to fish processing factories in those countries

VI. COFFEE SECTOR



Photo credit: ©NAEB

Uganda March coffee export drops by 15 %

UGANDA'S coffee exports fell 15 percent in March to 217,809 60-kg bags compared with the similar period last year due to dwindling yields in some areas. Coffee is a leading export and foreign exchange earner for the east African country which specializes in production of robusta. Forums and conferences are being held to boost interest of the youth in coffee farming as the country relies on them to increase its production to 20 million bags by 2025 , a feat that would see it earn upwards of \$2 billion annually from coffee exports alone. [More details](#) or [go to this website](#)

was supported by delegated cooperation between the Netherlands Embassy and the Royal Danish Embassy in Kampala executed by Abi-Trust. One of the positive spin-offs was the milk processing container from Scherjon, mentioned in [our last newsletter edition](#). This led to a noticeable increase in dairy production as farmers obtain relatively better prices than before. The dairy equipment attracted a number of buyers. The development of this unique and affordable containerized dairy processing facility was supported by the DHI scheme based at RVO that supports Dutch enterprises that want to invest in or execute a project in emerging markets and in developing countries. The DHI scheme is a tender programme. Enterprises can submit a tender during the tender periods. The second tender in 2018 opens on 9 August and closes on 21 September, 3 p.m. (Dutch time). [Read more](#)

Contacts:

The Embassy of The Kingdom of The Netherlands
Agricultural department
Kigali- Rwanda
E-mail: KIG-LNV@minbuza.nl
Website: www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl
Twitter: [@NLagriRwanda](https://twitter.com/NLagriRwanda)

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VII. DAIRY SECTOR



Containerized Milk Processing Plant from Mueller was a hit at The Harvest Money Expo 2018 in Kampala

Dutch company Mueller has for many years supplied high quality dairy equipment to Ugandan farmers. For instance, over 100 primary Dairy cooperatives in Uganda's dairy hub located in the South West procured over 100 milk coolers from the same company. The acquisition of the coolers