



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agriculture Newsletter

June - July 2018

Rwanda and Uganda

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INTRODUCTION

Dear readers,

Here is the 4th edition of the newsletter of the Netherlands embassy's agricultural office for Rwanda and Uganda, with news from June and July 2018. 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. EVENTS & CONFERENCES

The Agricultural Assistant Conference : 22-27 June 2018

From 18 - 22 June 2018, RVO organized the biannual conference for Agricultural Assistants from all missions abroad. The main objective of the conference was to get updated on policies and technological innovations and to network with the Dutch agribusiness and colleagues based on other embassies and in The Hague.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague

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

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The conference brought together 74 colleagues from 64 missions and from the home-base. The five day-program started with a breakfast meeting with the DG Marjolijn Sonnema from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. "Global Business Event Feeding the World Together" at the Rabobank in Utrecht was an opportunity to meet with agribusiness companies interested in doing business in our countries. The agricultural assistants also visited research and business centres like WUR-Business Unit and the impressive World Horti-Center in The Hague.



Picture 1. A group of Agricultural assistant in The Hague

Holland pavilion at Agricultural Show 2018

From 27th of June until 1st July 2018, Dutch companies and organizations, active in agri-business in Rwanda and Uganda, demonstrated their knowledge and expertise to the public at The annual Agricultural show in Kigali.

The 13th edition of the expo was organized by the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI). This year's theme was "Invest in innovations and Agribusiness to Transform Agriculture". The event is a platform for farmers /entrepreneurs to showcase innovations and best practices in the Agriculture sector.

The Holland pavilion showcased 15 Dutch agri-business companies together with Dutch NGO's

active in the agri-business, farming and solar energy sectors in Rwanda and Uganda.



Picture 2. The Rwandan Minister of Agriculture Geraldine Mukeshimana and Ambassador Frederique De Man visiting the Holland Pavilion

Bramin farm (part of Bralirwa/Heineken), Agriterra and Holland Greentech attracted a lot of attention by exhibiting their high quality products, such as seeds, vegetables, fruits and seed potatoes and shared with the visitors hands-on skills and best practices to improve their production and quality. Different groups of farmers visited Holland Greentech's demonstration plots which displayed their small-scale irrigation system, green houses and pesticide management tools.

AgriProFocus also got numerous visitors that registered on their [platform](#) which allows them to link, network and share knowledge with other agribusinesses in Rwanda and the Netherlands. New in the Pavilion this year were Waka Waka Ltd, who demonstrated their innovative solar power bank, Bid Network who links business entrepreneurs to investors and Delphy which is a consultancy company on horticultural production. Other Dutch (or Dutch-linked) companies and organizations that demonstrated their products and services in Rwanda were Africa Improved Foods, SNV, PUM, ICCO Cooperation, Severe Weather Consult, Spark, GAIN and ProDev.

II. AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Farmers call for agricultural insurance products as vulnerability to losses grow

As Rwandan farmers are facing challenges caused by heavy rain occurred at the beginning of this year (ref. our [previous newsletter](#)), they are now expressing the need for insurance of their agricultural products. This insurance could help them to reduce the financial losses which are becoming increasingly common. Over 4,973.5 hectares of crop were damaged by heavy rain from January till May this year. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture announced that a budget of RWF 200 million under fiscal year 2017/2018 was allocated for the agriculture insurance scheme. More info , [read here](#).

Solar technology to manage farming remotely

A group of young Rwandan engineers developed a solar powered soil test and automatic irrigation technology that can help farmers to manage their farm remotely. The new technology was also exhibited during The Agrishow 2018. The aim of this innovation is to save costs, reduce environmental impact and produce more and better food . The system requires a cell phone and a well installed irrigation system so that the farmer can initiate an automatic irrigation from his device. The system also assists with moisture, humidity and temperature management. The technology supports the government's new agricultural strategy line (PSTA4) which has a focus on ICT tools and encouraging the youth to engage in Agribusiness. More info please visit [this website](#)

ITC launches portal to avail prices of agricultural products

A market price information portal has been launched on 10th June 2018 by The International Trade Centre (ITC). This online database will provide access to live updates and prices about soft commodities; culinary spices and herbs; dairy/livestock, fish and seafood; fresh fruit and vegetables; forestry, fibre, textiles; grains and pulses; oilseeds, oils, nuts and fats. Not only WILL the portal display updates and prices of agricultural

products but also it will help SMEs to become more competitive, making it easier to connect to global markets and enable them to grow their businesses. More info , [visit this website](#).

III. COFFEE SECTOR

Rwandan coffee showcased in Amsterdam

Last month, the Rwandan coffee has been showcased in one of the world's distinguished coffee events known as " World of coffee exhibition" in Amsterdam. The event has been a good opportunity to generate more business deals and seek more investment opportunities within the coffee sector in Rwanda. During the event, the Rwandan exhibitors raised the awareness about the up-coming exhibition " Africa Fine Coffee Conference and Exhibition" to be hosted in Kigali by February 2019. More details [click here](#)

Scientists to digitize agriculture chain with new apps

The Ugandan National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO) has developed 3 applications and an SMS-based platform to help farmers obtain relevant information about diseases, post-harvest handling, husbandry practices, technologies and innovations happening in agriculture. This technology is also expected to boost Ugandan youth's interest in Agriculture sector. More details click [here](#).

Instant coffee in Rwanda

A young Rwandan entrepreneur has recently started to produce the instant coffee from locally produced coffee beans. Henry Carl Nsabyumukiza started his business in 2015 and up to now he has acquired a growing market ranging from hotels to supermarkets. Doing this as an entrepreneur , he meets challenges including lacking efficient machinery as they are very costly and a low number of small scale coffee farmers to supply the coffee. Despite these challenges , he is hoping to increase his number of employees. Read his story [here](#)

IV. SEED SECTOR

Modern seed potato warehouse & Greenhouse in the Northern province

To address the Irish potato seed shortage faced by farmers in Rwanda, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources recently inaugurated five modern potato seed warehouses in the Western and Northern region of Rwanda and a greenhouse in Burera district. These facilities ensure the constant supply of quality seeds at affordable prices as they were lacking on the local markets. Rwanda has a demand of 120 000 tonnes of quality seeds but only 25 percent of this demand is met. By establishing these facilities 50 percent of the demand are expected to be covered. More investments in this area are still needed in order to help farmers around the borders. For more info [click here](#)

V. DAIRY SECTOR

Rwanda's milk production on the rise as cattle population drop

The improvement of feeds and of genetics of cows has led to the increase of milk production from about 710 000 (in 2015) to over 816 000 metric tonnes (in 2018) in spite of a reduced number of cows in the country. Artificial insemination also played a big role to achieve those results as said by Rwanda Dairy Development Project (RDDP). This project was launched in 2017 and supported by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). However the number of cows in the country has reduced since 2015. More info, [click here](#)

VI. DISEASE OCCURRING

Rift valley fever disease in Kamonyi district

An outbreak of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) has been reported in Kamonyi (Southern province) by June of this year. Figures from Rwanda Agricultural Board show that 111 cows have been killed by this disease and 24 cows have aborted . The fever also attacked more cows in The Eastern province since April of this year. Vaccination for the non-infected cows has already started to avoid further spread.

Farmers are also being encouraged to take precautions in order to handle the fever. More [Details](#)

VII. FISHERY SECTOR

Fish farmers decry lack of quality, affordable fish feeds

Currently Rwanda is facing the lack of quality and affordable fish feed. This leads to a low productivity: with low quality feeds one fish provides between 300 and 600 grams whereas with quality feeds one fish could provide 1,5 kg of meat, as stated by fish farmers. Currently Rwanda counts three big fish feed factories that do not produce sufficient feed for the local market. To meet the growing demand for fish products, the industry is in need of expertise, better testing laboratories and improved production techniques. More details please click [here](#)

VIII. FRUITS SECTOR IN UGANDA

Mango farmers in Lango to gain value addition skills

With the support of SNV-IAP in collaboration with Private Sector Foundation in Uganda PSFU skills development Fund, mango farmers are being offered trainings in modern method of fruits growing. The training are being offered by Sky food beverage ltd, a Dutch-Ugandan fruits processing plant operating in Uganda. Farmers are tipped on value addition and development, record keeping and savings. The company also has a mobile pulp mango making machine to pulp fruits directly from farmers saving farmers from losses as their fruits might rot. More details, [read here](#)

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