



Kingdom of the Netherlands

# Agriculture Newsletter

## August-September 2018

5<sup>th</sup> Edition

# Rwanda and Uganda

Twitter [@NLagriRwanda](#) - Website [www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl](http://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl) or [www.netherlandsworldwide.nl](http://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl)

## INTRODUCTION

Dear readers,

We are here to inform you with the latest updates in a 5<sup>rd</sup> edition of our Newsletter. The news and events about agriculture in Rwanda and Uganda are for August and September. 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](mailto:KIG-LNV@minubuza.nl)

## EVENTS

### AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION FORUM 2018, KIGALI

From 5 – 8 September the African Green Revolution Forum took place in Kigali. The conference brought together leaders in agricultural transformation from all over Africa, including Heads of State. The objective of the meeting is for all these leaders in agricultural transformation to recommit to investing in agriculture in Africa.

The conference was graced with an exposition where private sector and organizations could present their products and services. The embassy

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### October 2018

2-3 October 2019 : [Poultry Africa 2019](#) ,Kigali

### November 2018

26–30 November 2018 : [Africa Green Revolution Forum](#) ,Kigali

of The Netherlands sponsored 1 booth for Holland Greentech and SoilCares as we thought the audience of the conference was of interest to them. Both companies were highly satisfied with the exposition as it resulted in many business leads for them, not only in Rwanda.



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## POTATO SECTOR

### HIKING IRISH POTATO PRICE WORRIES KIGALI RESIDENTS

The scarcity and the irregular supply of the Irish potatoes has led to a price increase to between 370Rwf to 500 Rwf in the last two months. Hotels and restaurants with all other small food business has been obliged to cut production to adapt to the price adjustments and consumer trends in response to food price. [Read more](#)

### FARMERS UPBEAT OVER NEW POTATO VARIETIES

Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) in partnership with USAID, has launched six new varieties of Irish potatoes which were under trial in Musanze district in the northern province of the country. The new varieties are heat resistant and can also be grown in the Eastern province, a warm mid-altitude areas as RAB officials said. USAID also started a partnership with a research institution (Ines Ruhengeri) in an attempt to help farmers increase the produce and therefore ensuring food security. [Read more](#)

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## LIVESTOCK SECTOR

### FARMERS URGED TO USE NEW DRUG TO FIGHT DRUG RESISTANT TICKS

The use of Nortraz on crops has led to a loss of cattle (cows) which feed on them.

Nortraz, is a deadly substance used to kill mites or ticks. As the ticks developed resistance to it, farmers have thought to combine it with pesticides. This resulted into poisonous substance that took lives of 31 cows in Gatsibo district. Farmers are now encouraged to use a new substance, PermaPy Plus known to repel ticks, flies and mosquitoes. However, the cost of this locally made product is still expensive to farmers and they are still figuring out whether there is no any other way to deal with ticks without being charged a lot of money. [Read more](#)

### RIFT VALLEY FEVER(RVF) BAN RELIEVED

Following the outbreak of RVF disease, published in our previous newsletter, the Rwandan government imposed a ban on cows from Ngoma, Kirehe and Kayonza districts to prevent the contact between exposed livestock and those which were free from them. No farmers were allowed to sell their cows during the outbreak. PermaPy Plus, a drug responsible to kill mosquitoes transmitting the disease, has been sprayed over 31 6445 cows countrywide. Vaccinations have also been made. As of end of July the ban has been removed. More details. [Read more](#)

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## VARIOUS NEWS

### IFAJ WORLD CONGRESS 2018

In July 2018 the Dutch association for agriculture and horticulture journalists organized the world congress of the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) in the Netherlands. The aim of the conference was to show the global appeal of The Dutch agriculture and horticulture summarized as '[Dutch roots](#)'. Two Agri-journalists from Rwanda and Uganda attended the event with the support of the embassy. [Read their story here.](#)

## OVER RWF 80 MILLION GRANTED TO DUTCH FIRM TO INTENSIFY HORTICULTURE IN BUGESERA



Picture: Vegetable field at SUNRIPE Farm

Holland Greentech, a Dutch horticulture firm operating in Rwanda, has recently received a grant of 89 millions Rwf, from USAID Rwanda, to increase the supply of improved inputs for smallholder farmers by scaling up its vegetable demonstrations and by sharing their expertise with farmers through farmer Fields Days organized at their demonstration sites. In line with this partnership, Holland Greentech started with SUNRIPE Farm Ltd, a company located in Bugesera district and growing vegetables and herbs often not available on the local market. The farm is also among the 40 demonstration sites to be used for learning the best practices in modern agriculture. [Read more](#)

## RWANDA INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATIVE AGRICULTURE (RICA) TO BE INAUGURATED IN RWANDA

On 2nd August, The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) hosted a ceremony to formalize the ongoing construction of The Rwanda Institute for Conservative Agriculture. The establishment of RICA, is supported by a fund from The Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The facility will equip the next generation of agricultural entrepreneurs of Rwanda and East Africa with practical skills and knowledge in Beef cattle and small ruminants, Dairy, Poultry and Swine, Row and Forage crops, Vegetables and Tree crops, Irrigation and Mechanization. [Read more](#)

## USAID RWANDA NGURIZA NSHORE PROJECTS

Through the US government Feed the Future initiative, a programme "Nguriza Nshore" has been funded to improve the capacity of small and medium enterprises to access finance. The Dutch firm BidNetwork is one of the partners in the project. The \$14,9 million project, that will run from 2018 till 2023, will specifically invest in SMEs that support the agricultural sector and add value to the agricultural commodities and will also fuel the job creation as it is expected to create over 30 000 non-farm jobs. The project will help farmers get agriculture inputs such as quality seed, agricultural mechanisation and irrigation equipment as stated by The US Ambassador to Rwanda, Peter Vrooman, during the launch of the programme on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Kigali. [Read more](#)

## 1,000 FARMERS GET SKILLS IN MODERN FARMING IN UGANDA

By the support of The Netherlands, The Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) in partnership with The Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MUZARD) have trained about 1000 farmers on modern vegetable farming at Mukono municipality in Uganda. The 2 days training aimed at promoting the use of quality seeds, resistant to pests with a better yield on a small piece of land as stated by Astrid Mastenbroek, the chief of Party ISSD Uganda. ISSD has set up demonstration gardens where farmers learned the healthier best practices in vegetable farming such as the use of traps to get rid of pests. [Read more](#)

## PIGGERY INDUSTRY

### HIGH INCOME, APPETITE FOR PORK , DRIVE UP PIG INDUSTRY

The piggery industry is on the rise thanks to increased number of consumers and the improvement in the disease control and the introduction of quality and highly productive breeds such as Landrace and Pietrain. Removing the VAT from processed feeds also contributed to this rise. For value chain addition, 3 modern slaughterhouses are being constructed. However the professional pig farming is needed to increase the production capacity which is still low compared to the demand in the country. [Read more](#). A young entrepreneur has taken a lead in rearing pigs. Read his [story](#).

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## FISHERY INDUSTRY

### DEATH OF FISH IN NORTHERN PROVINCE WATER BODIES

On Friday, 21 September 2018, thousands of fish have been found afloat lifeless on river Mugara and Mukungwa and in three ponds located in Musanze district. The cause of this loss originate from the water contamination by a toxic substance that has not been yet identified. Laboratory tests are still being conducted on fish and water samples to uncover the source and level of pollution as stated by Colette Ruhamyia, The DG of Rwanda Environment Management Authority. Fish farmers whose ponds were affected claim for compensation as all their fish were all decimated. [Read more](#) The authorities have suspended fishing activities in Musanze district as investigation continues. [Read more](#)

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## TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

### NEW SOIL SCANNER TO BOOST EFFECTIVENESS OF FERTILISERS

Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) in partnership with SoilCares Foundation, a dutch organization , have introduced a new soil testing technology that can provide accurate information about the soil in

a very short time. This sensor-based technology is done by connecting a soil scanner device to the farmers smartphone application. The information displayed consists of a report about the soil status and fertilization. Not only the technology is affordable - compared to the previous method which required farmers to take a soil sample to laboratories for testing- but also it is efficient in enabling small holder farmers to know specific fertilisers to use in boosting soil fertility. More about SoilCares Foundation. [Read here](#)

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If you have any remarks or suggestions for this newsletter, or if you would like unsubscribe, please inform us on [KIG-LNV@minbuza.nl](mailto:KIG-LNV@minbuza.nl).