



Agrifood West Africa Quarterly newsletter

January 2019



Welcome to our first newsletter!

Dear reader,

I want to thank you for subscribing to the newsletter of the West Africa Agricultural Team of the Netherlands government. Through this newsletter we aim to keep you updated on major developments, events and opportunities in West Africa. But it should also become a source of inspiration and fun facts... Also, I want to take this opportunity to introduce the team working with and for you in Nigeria, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.



We are, from left to right, Marian Armoo (regional), Joel Kouame (Côte d'Ivoire), Bram Wits (Agricultural Counselor), Josephine Ecklu (Ghana) Brian Udoh (Nigeria) and Sarah Vissers (regional). The easiest way to reach any one of us is through ACC-LVN@minbuza.nl.

I hope you enjoy this very first newsletter, please tell your colleagues and friends about it and give us your feedback!!

Bram Wits
Agricultural Counselor

In this edition...

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What's new?

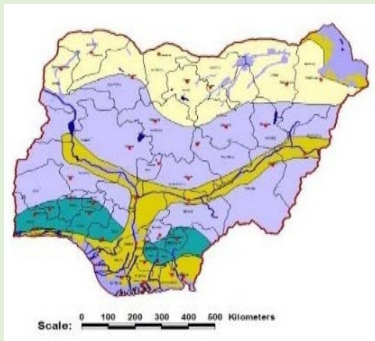
Interview: Henri Wientjes



When you want to start a series of interviews with Dutch agricultural entrepreneurs in West Africa there is basically only one man you can start with. Henri Wientjes could best be described as the "Paramount Chief" of the Dutch agric community in Ghana. With over 46 years of experience in Ghana, he has seen the population rise from 9 million to 30 million inhabitants, visited literally all the regions of the country and has a wealth of stories, lessons and insights to share. When I first arrived in Ghana for my work as agricultural counselor, he was among the first people I sought to meet and to this date I have always walked away with a better understanding of Ghana and its people. I asked Henri to share his experiences and advice with others who live and work in West Africa or who aspire to do so...

[Read more](#)

Factsheet: Aquaculture in Nigeria



The Nigerian government is very eager to reduce the nation's import bills, and has directed fish importers to implement backward integration into commercial aquaculture. This has increased investment into aquaculture since 2016. The most cultured fishes are catfish and tilapia, but the country has the environment to support the farming of other tropical species in both fresh and marine water environments. Currently, a few Dutch private sector SMEs and multinationals are very active in the aquaculture value chain (fish seeds and seed production technology, fish production and RAS technology and fish feeds).

[Open](#)

West Africa, the Dutch and the Water-Food Nexus

While the West African population is rapidly growing in size, local harvests yield less and less due to unpredictable rain patterns as a result of climate change. It is clear that food security is under threat in the region, and that West Africa urgently needs a new approach to food production. The transition towards a sustainable, climate-smart food system requires us to combine interdisciplinary knowledge in agri-food and water. The Dutch, world leaders in both food production and water management, have a lot to contribute!

[Read more](#)

Special Voedselzekerheid: Kennis versterkt klimaatweerbaarheid West-Afrika

Speciaal geteelde groenten die zijn opgewassen tegen het hete, droge Afrikaanse klimaat. Slimme irrigatiesystemen om het onregelmatiger regenpatroon te 'tackelen'. Nederlandse landbouwkennis is hard nodig om de sterk groeiende bevolking van West-Afrika te blijven voeden en klimaatveranderingen op te vangen.

[Lees meer](#)



Social media

Video report of our poultry field visit [click for video]



Follow on Twitter!

In this section, we let you in on some of the best content creators on Twitter! After you follow us at [@Agri_WestAfrica](#), please to check out our first fave:

[@wandieville](#)



Wandieville Media is an award winning communication and educative media company that focuses on Global Developmental Projects in Africa such as Agriculture, Nutrition, Women Development, and Community Development. Owner Yewande Kazeem is an Nigerian agriculture journalist. She is passionate about impacting Small Scale Farmers, Urban Farming, School Planting Programs, research & technology involving how to feed 9 billion people in the world by 2050. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Oklahoma.



Upcoming events

Ghana

- **3-6 February** Visit Minister Carola Schouten (Vice-PM, Minister of Agriculture)
- **11-15 March** HortiFresh trade mission
- **29 May** Poultry Seminar

Côte d'Ivoire

- **6-7 February** Visit Minister Carola Schouten (Vice-PM, Minister of Agriculture)

- **10-13 March** Mission: Port of Amsterdam + 30 companies in the cocoa sector
- **22 November-1 December** SARA (Salon de l'Agriculture et Des Ressources Animales)

Nigeria

- **26-28 March** Agrofood Fair (Landmark Centre, Lagos)
Combined with: Launch of the Impact Cluster

The Netherlands

- **7 March** West Africa Business event (RVO, The Hague)



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