



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agriculture Newsletter

January - March 2019

7th Edition

Rwanda and Uganda

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Dear reader,

Here is the 7th edition of the newsletter of the Netherlands embassy's agricultural office for Rwanda and Uganda, with news from January till March 2019. We are always looking forward to hear from you, if you have remarks or suggestions for this newsletter please inform us on KIG-LNV@minubuza.nl

EVENTS

Uganda

Uganda: Successful Trade Mission and Harvest Money Expo 2019

This year's Agri – Trade Mission in combination with a Holland Village at the Harvest Money Expo 2019, took place from 14 – 18 February. A delegation of 15 Dutch companies in Dairy, Poultry and Horticulture, travelled to Uganda for the Trade Mission and Expo. [Read more](#)

June 2019

3 June 2019: [Farming the future is our nature](#), Utrecht

October 2019

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

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Harvest Money Expo Uganda

Rwanda

Hortinvest official launch



A vegetable shade net in Muhanga

In Muhanga District on 06 March 2019 was the launch of HortInvest, the “Investing in Horticultural Development in Rwanda” project worth 16.2 Million EUR, a four year (2018-2021) horticultural value chain project. [Read more](#)

VISITS

Dutch support to Rwandan companies that produce nutritious foods

Last month, on March 17th, 2019, a Food security and Nutrition mission from The Netherlands visited Rwandan companies (including FarmFresh company Ltd) that have received support from GAIN’s Market Place for Nutritious Foods. The GAIN-project is supported by the Government of the Netherlands. [Read more](#)



High Iron beans produced by FarmFresh Company

Dutch support to a Rwandan company that is involved in bakery

December last year, a Dutch organization, PUM visited a youth-led company dubbed Carl Group Ltd involved in pastry making by using The orange fleshed potatoes. He assisted them in product development and management. The company is also supported by a Dutch funded project, GAIN which assist them with business management and planning as well as market research. [Read more](#)



The Orange Fleshed potatoes

VARIOUS NEWS

Horticulture sector

Alibaba to open up China to local horticulture exporters

The Rwandan government expect to generate \$140 millions from horticulture by 2020 thanks to the Ewtp (electronic World Trade Platform) project signed in October last year by President Paul Kagame and Alibaba Group Executive chairman

Jack Ma. The project allows Rwandan products to be sold on Alibaba platform. Chili pepper, French beans, tree tomatoes and avocados are among the products to be sold through the platform. [Read more](#)

Rwanda, Israel unveil Horticulture Centre of Excellence in Kigali

MASHAV is a Center of Excellence for Horticultural Development with ambitions to increase production through modern technology and research. The Rwanda-Israel initiative is expected to serve the commercial and smallholder horticulture farmers and to address the challenges revolving around food and water insecurity. [Read more](#)

Rwanda to spend over Rwf 8bn on greenhouses, hydroponics

By 2023/2024 financial year, almost 38,1 hectares will be occupied by hydroponics for vegetative crops such as Irish potatoes and Cassava. Green houses for vegetables and flowers will occupy over 1 274 hectares.



Horticulture produce from Muhanga farmers

The development will be achieved through public private partnership (PPP) arrangement under PSTA 4. The technology is a solution to the small land available in Rwanda. However, farmers say that its cost is very expensive hence very difficult for them to afford it. [Read more](#)

Livestock sector

Livestock industry generates Rwf300 billion in revenues

Last year marked a 15,7% increase of revenues of the Rwandan livestock industry. The government subsidies on livestock inputs and tax exemptions on livestock-related activities are among the factors behind the development. Specific interventions have been made in Dairy, Poultry and Pig farming through increased artificial insemination, The Girinka program and small stock programme consisting of chicken, pigs and goats. [Read more](#)

97% of needy families benefit from 'Girinka' programme

Girinka project which has started in Rwanda in 2006 has so far reached 97.4% of its completion. 341 065 poor families received cows under this project. The project contributed to the social welfare of these families and fostered social cohesion among Rwandans. [Read more](#)

Fishery

Fish production set to triple in 2024 – RAB

Fish production in Rwanda has increased by 4960 tonnes over the last two years. Supporting investors in cage farming; supporting small scale farming through ponds and equipping farmers with skills and techniques in fish farming are the three main causes behind this increase, as said by Solange Uwituze, the Deputy Director General of Animal Research and Technology Transfer at Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) [Read more](#)

Agricultural development

Rwanda

New technology that could reduce post-harvest losses

In an effort to tackle post-harvest losses Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) introduced a grains storage bags as a simple and cost-effective way of storing grains and seeds without using chemical preservatives to control insect pests. The

technology also preserves the seeds and grains for a long period without damage. Farmers are urged to use those bags for a better preservation of their seeds. However, their cost is still high and this hinders farmers to start using them. [Read more](#)

Three years on, how impactful has Export Growth Fund been?

Statistics shows that last year, 16 exporters benefited from the export growth fund. The fund is financed by The Government of Rwanda, the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) and KfW, a development bank owned by Germany government. The investment government makes into the fund acts as grant and help to subsidize interest that exporters are charged by BRD on loans. Garden fresh, a horticulture firm is among the beneficiaries of the fund. [Read more](#)

Will agric insurance unlock sector potential?

Following last year's floods and landslides and the losses they caused to farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture said that the insurance is being piloted in insuring maize, rice and livestock in few districts of the country. The government will pay 40% of the insurance cost. This will help financial institutions to be open to agriculture sector and give loans to farmers. [Read more](#)

Uganda

Uganda: District asked to specialise in two agricultural commodities

For getting quality commodities, districts in Uganda have been urged to specialise and concentrate on two commodities only. This programme is expected to boost production and help Ugandans to move from subsistence farming to market oriented farming. [Read more](#)

Trade from Rwanda through Uganda

Responding to a question by Ellen Giokos, a CNN business reporter, at the Africa CEO Forum in Kigali on whether the closure of the Gatuna border point was impacting economic integration in the East African Community, Rwandan President Paul Kagame mentioned good held in transit by Uganda authorities and accused Uganda of erecting non-

tariff barriers to trade in the region, which are detrimental to integration. [Read more](#)

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