



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agriculture Newsletter

April – June 2019

8th Edition

Rwanda and Uganda

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Dear reader,

Here is the 8th edition of the newsletter of the Netherlands embassy's agricultural office for Rwanda and Uganda, with news from April till June 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 & FAIRS

Dutch Innovative Circular “Fish hub” now in Rwanda

Tuesday 11 June Ambassador De Man opened the **Innovative and Circular** Tilapia Hub at Lakeside Fish farm. After a successful pilot of the innovative Fish hub in Kenya, a Dutch consortium of aquaculture companies launched their Fish Hub in Rwanda. The Fish Hub got a subsidy from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture to bring this innovative technology for sustainable and environmentally friendly production to Rwanda. Advantages of implementation of this circular fish farming technology are a larger output, 50% lower feed cost, 25% higher survival rate and 99% water reduction.

EVENTS CALENDAR

25 – 30 August: Mission Rwanda – NL on Integrated Pest Management

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

October/November 2019: TradeMission Horticulture to Rwanda organized by Resilience BV.

October/November 2019: Mission Rwanda to Netherlands on public private cooperation in science and extension

February 2020: Trademission to Uganda in combination with Harvest Money Expo Kampala

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or

This technology built with Dutch expertise and knowledge is going to have a positive impact on fish production and food security in the region. [Read more](#) (in Dutch)



A successful Holland pavilion at Kigali Agricultural show 2019



Photo. The holland pavilion @Agrishow 2019

In the week of 18 June 2019 the Agrishow Rwanda took place in Kigali. As usual the Embassy organized a Holland Pavilion for the Dutch companies and Dutch funded Private Sector Development projects. This year the HollandPavilion was part of the EUVillage. On Wednesday 19 June the EU village was festively opened by the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the Minister of Local government accompanied by Ambassador Frédérique de Man and EU representative Nicola Bellomo. The minister and her delegation got a tour around the village and were handed a present composed of products from companies and NGOs of the EUVillage. Many interested visitors came to the

EUVillage, mainly farmer cooperatives. Information on products, services and Best Practices was shared in the presentation room on different agriculture related topics such as crop production and livestock development. We are very proud to say that during the closing ceremony at the end of the Agrishow two Dutch companies, Africa Improved Food and Holland Greentech won the 1st and 2nd place of best foreign exhibitors awards.

Holland Greentech that provide a complete horticulture package for farmers, received many visitors most of them were looking for seeds (vegetable), Irrigation and green house set up skills. This gave them an opportunity to sell many products. Other visitors were interested in irrigation, soil scanners or information on drip irrigation at the demonstration field.



At the Hortinvest stand, (<https://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/actueel/nieuws/2017/12/15/nieuw-nederlands-tuinbouwproject-in-rwanda>) farmers were interested in getting information about market access as the project connects cooperatives involved in horticultural value chain to the international market; various techniques to improve their horticultural produce and also information about the new SNV global strategy under the theme "Local know-how for lasting solution" due to run from 2019-2022.in Rwanda. the HortInvest project will support different cooperatives in order to help them improve their productivity and also nutrition in their own household.

Agriterra showcased various produce from its grantee cooperatives, including fresh fruits and vegetables as well as banana and cassava. The stand also attracted many people as the farmers were sharing their own testimonies(farmer to farmer exchange program) in farming by showcasing their outstanding produce. This has given them an opportunity to sell a big amount of their products.



Visitors were also interested in learning about the Agri-pool approach used by Agriterra whereby there is an exchange of knowledge between farmers in the Netherlands and farmers in Rwanda.

New Dutch companies in the Holland Pavilion included Minimex, CREATE, eProd, Winnaz, SEAD,

For this edition GAIN, the market for nutritious foods invited two of their grantees namely Farm fresh involved in the production of nutritious high iron beans and Carl group which produce Vit A bread and cakes from Sweet Orange fleshed potatoes. The latter has been recognized, by Claude Musabyimana, PS MinAgri in his closing remark, to be among the most innovative products of the exhibition.

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT Rwanda

3 SDG Partnership projects to start in Rwanda

Three Dutch-Rwandan consortia have successfully submitted project proposals for sustainable development of three agricultural value chains.

1. A consortium of AIF, KUMWE Harvest, Agriterra, MinAgri and Sight and Life will invest in postharvest management, to prevent aflatoxin contamination of maize and reduce postharvest losses from 20-30% to less than 5%. 30.000 farmers will benefit from the program with increased incomes and improved nutrition.
2. A consortium of Delphy, Agriterra, Holland Fairfoods, SeedPotatoFund, RAB and Dodore will work together to professionalise the potato value chain, to reduce postharvest losses and increase the availability of clean potato seed in Rwanda. 4.000 farmers will directly benefit from the project with improved incomes. More than 30.000 farmers will benefit from the program with better access to information on good agronomic practices, through field days and a digital platform.

3. A consortium of Dibcoop, Sorwathe, Assopthe and ARCOS will work on rehabilitating the water works in the tea plantage to protect the plantage from severe erosion. At the same time the project will work with uphill farmers on reforestation (agroforestry) and improved food production for better household nutrition and economic development.

[Read more](#)



SNV launches global strategy in Rwanda

On June 20th, 2019 SNV launched a new 4 years global strategy under the theme “Local know-how for lasting solutions”. The new strategy will run from 2019-2022 in Rwanda. The new strategy will continue to focus on implementing programs in its three core areas: Agriculture, Renewable Energy and water, Sanitation and Hygiene while addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender and youth. It will also contribute toward National Transformation Strategy 1 (NST1) and Vision 2050 of the country. During the event Ms Meike van Genneken, The CEO of SNV, presented SNV global strategy booklet to Professor Shyaka Anastase, the Minister of local government. [Read more](#)

Agriterra launches in Rwanda

Agriterra officially opened its door in Rwanda on June 18th, 2019 in an event attended by various Rwandan government officials amongst others The deputy Chief Executive officer of NAEB, Sandrine Urujeni ; the Director of Planning and Cooperative promotion Rwanda Cooperative Agency

(RCA) , Mr James Nkubito and The Dutch Ambassador in Rwanda Frederique de Man. As the embassy is phasing out the bilateral aid program, we are transitioning our relationship from **Aid to Trade** and Investment. Agriterra is an important partner in this transition as they work with **Dutch experts** from several important Dutch agricultural companies, exposing them to Rwanda and its opportunities. The good work of

Agrierra in strengthening cooperatives with Dutch expertise contributes to the **good relationship** between Rwanda and the Netherlands.

Which is why we are so pleased to have them as an important partner in the bilateral **HortInvest** program and two out of three recently approved Public Private Partnership projects under the centrally funded **SDG Partnership Facility**, that will start this summer in Rwanda. [Read more](#)

Rwandan product showcased at 2019 Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition

Agricultural related products such as processed fruit juices, processed chili pepper, honey, roasted coffee and tea were among products showcased at at Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 which took place on April 29th. The exhibition was an opportunity to promote tourism and investments and broaden the market for Made in Rwanda products. [Read more](#)

Nyagatare to build Rwf1.2bn maize mill

With an effort to address issues of lack of market for maize produce of farmers in the district of Nyagatare, a maize mill construction started in the beginning of June 2019 under public private partnership between Nyagatare district and farmers association in the district. The factory will have a processing capacity of 30 tonnes of maize per day. The district is in line with addressing aflatoxin issue as it is establishing mobile drivers and is constructing silos. [Read more](#)

New mobile app to boost potato farming

A Dutch organization, SPARK ignite Rwanda, through its project Irish Potato value chain Financing (IpovaF), has introduced a new technology that will allow potato farmers to apply for loans in various financial institutions and banks within the country. Farmers are requested to record their produce on a seasonal or daily basis in order to boost their credit worthiness. [Read more](#)

Uganda

Uganda and Denmark to work on food quality

In order to address the issue of rejection of Ugandan agricultural products, The Pan African Development Project (PADP) was introduced. The project, resulted from a partnership framework between Uganda and Denmark through public and private sectors, will enlighten Ugandan farmers on the food process chain that will help them to access the international market again. This was decided during The Roskilde Agricultural country fair held in Denmark from 31/05 to 2nd June this year. [Read more](#)

IRRIGATION SECTOR

What will it take for Rwanda to achieve its irrigation goals?



Capacity development among farmers on irrigation solutions coupled with seeking financial models that will make irrigation more affordable are among the action steps to be made in order to make irrigation a sustainable measure, as shared by Daniel Gies, the chief party at feed the future, a program funded by the USAID. Currently only about 60,000 ha are under irrigation out of national irrigation potential of 600,000 ha [Read more](#)

Kirehe: Irrigation schemes boost farmers' incomes

The 24 million USD irrigation project funded through a partnership between Howald G buffet foundation and Rwandan government has helped farmers from Eastern province - known for its worst drought - to make remarkable profits from their yields. The scheme, located near Lake Nasho, covers 1,172 hectares that help 2099 farmers to irrigate their fields of Soybean, maize and beans. [Read more](#)

Government launches model project to sustain irrigation system

For a better sustainability of irrigation scheme in Rwanda, a five years project was launched with the support of Japanese experts from JICA. The project will be conducted in 3 districts names Rwamagana, Ngoma and Gisagara. In its first phase that costs about \$56,000, the project will provide management expertise to Irrigation water user associations for cooperatives in marshland and hillsides that already uses irrigation technology. The country targets to irrigate at least 102,000 ha by 2024. [Read more.](#)

DIARY SECTOR

French firm seeks to introduce solar-powered milk coolers to help cut farmers' losses

As a remedy to the problem of milk rejection by milk collection centres over falling short of standards due to the lack of milk cooling facilities on farm, SERAP, a

French firm providing effective cooling system expressed its interest in establishing its presence in Rwanda. The system is adapted to smallholder farmers as it can be run easily by solar or normal single phase electric power. This will ensure a sustainable production and increased productivity in the dairy sector in Rwanda.

[Read more](#)

COFFEE SECTOR

Government turns to new high yielding coffee varieties

In an effort to address challenges of coffee production in Rwanda, nine new varieties of coffee have been developed and tried at RAB research stations. The varieties are expected to produce high yields and are more resistant to diseases than the old varieties. The new varieties will be provided to farmers for on farm trials starting in September this year. This is in line with the development of Integrated Pest Management package to control Antesia bug and other coffee berry diseases. [Read more](#)

TOURISM AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Rwanda to receive five black rhinos

By June 16th, Rwanda's Akagera Park received 5 black rhinos from Czech Republic and Denmark. The black rhino belongs to the most endangered species in the world as there are only 900 black rhinos species existing in the world. Now, the country counts a total of 24 black rhinos as it first received 19 black rhinos from South Africa in 2017, with support from amongst other the Netherlands. Though the move is done for conservation reasons, it will also bring considerable benefit for the country as the rhinos are part of The big five, a major tourist attraction. [Read more](#)

Why Rwanda was chosen to champion global biodiversity

Campaign for Nature, a US based non-governmental organization, has selected Rwanda to be among the three countries that will serve as a model nations on biodiversity conservation. Other countries include France and Costa Rica. The initiative launched last year, seeks to call on countries to adopt best practices (mainly in Agriculture and fishing) in the protection of natural resources and restoration of degraded areas. The target is to protect 30% of global natural resources by 2030. [Read more](#).

Relief as RWF 22bn effort to preserve Sebeya, other catchments in unveiled



The Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) in collaboration with Rwanda Water and Forestry Authority (RWFA), The International Union of Conservation of nature (IUCN) and Action for the Protection of the Environment and Promotion of the Agricultural Sector (APEFA), with funding from the Dutch Embassy in Kigali. Will implement a four year project under the name of "Landscape restoration and integrated water Resources management" in Sebeya and other catchments. The project, launched on 20th of June this year in Rubavu district, will focus on developing innovative financing mechanisms and value chains a part of the project will be used to activities such as creating dams, digging trenches and reforestation. [Read more](#)

Seven East African scientists to get \$128,000 from UN for climate research

In an effort to prepare the African continent to deal with the impact of climate change, UN will, in the next two years, start a program known as Climate research for development (CR4D). The initiative will give \$120,000 to seven East-African scientists for them to conduct different studies with the aim of strengthening climate knowledge gaps on the continent in relation to various sector such as agriculture, Food security, Health, disaster risk reduction, energy and natural resource management, etc. [Read more](#)

FERTILISERS SECTOR

\$38 million fertiliser plant to be operational this year in Rwanda

At the end of this year, a new fertiliser making plant will be operational in Bugesera district. The project, worth \$ 38 million, is a joint-venture between Morocco's OCP group, the government of Rwanda and Agro-processing plant corporation (APTC), a local firm. The plant will produce Urea, Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) and NPK among other fertilizers and will have a capacity to blend 100,000 tonnes of fertilizers. Currently, the annual demand of fertilisers in Rwanda is 53,000 tonnes. The project has been showcased during the Agrishow 2019.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda offering high-tech help to smallholder farmers

On Friday June 21st, 2019 Charis Unmanned Aerial Solutions launched a research project on the viability of its services in Wheat and Potato farming by the demonstrating the potential of drones in driving agriculture output in Musanze district. For piloting the project 28 small holder farmers were selected as model farmers. The drones were used in collecting data from the field, spraying liquid pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides. They will also assist in giving accurate information about the kind of intervention needed , the type of fertilizers and seeds required in order to help farmers make informed decisions during the entire farming process. This is in line with the country's PST4, the fourth agriculture Transformation Strategy seeking to digitalize the sector among other commitments. This high-tech is also used to provide services to Tourism industry. [Read more](#)

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