



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agriculture Newsletter

October – December 2019

10th Edition

Rwanda and Uganda

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS SEASON !!!!!

Dear reader,

Wishing you a happy festive season, we would like to share with you the latest updates in a 10th edition of our Newsletter. The news and events about agriculture in Rwanda and Uganda are from October to December 2019. 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

VISITS

The Ambassador at Holland Greentech

On November 11th, 2019 Ambassador Matthijs Wolters visited the office of Holland Greentech in Kicukiro and the Demofarm Sunripe in Bugesera. The ambassador learned how Holland Greentech, together with Sunripe farm, tries to create impact, while creating a market for themselves and the farmers they work with. Every year Sunripe farm trains 50 women, who after the training become outgrowers for the farm. We proudly witness the growth of Holland Greentech and the growth of

EVENTS CALENDAR

- 20-21 Jan 2020:** 2nd TradeMission Floriculture to Rwanda organized by Resilience BV
- 13 - 17 Feb 2020 :** Agri Trademission to Uganda in combination with Harvest Money Expo Kampala
- 10 – 11 May 2020:** HortiConnect Conference Kigali
- June 2020:** National Agrishow Rwanda (expo)
- 7 – 11 Sept 2020:** African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in Kigali (conference & expo)

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Sunripe farm.



Picture: Sunripe Farm visit

After the farm visit the Ambassador and Agricultural Counselor also visited Ntarama Genocide Memorial to pay their respects to the victims of the genocide against the Tutsi.

CBI Market orientation mission



Picture: Rwandan coffee delegation in the Netherlands

In the week of 25 November a delegation of 25 coffee producers from Rwanda were in the Netherlands for the CBI - Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries Market Orientation Mission Speciality Coffee Rwanda to develop a high value, sustainable specialty coffee export sector in Rwanda that can do independently business in EU markets.

Floriculture mission in Rwanda

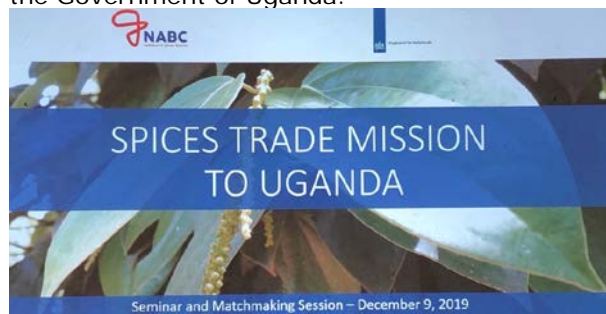
In the week of 21 November 2019, four Dutch investors came to Rwanda to look at investment opportunities. Three different sites have been visited and discussions took place with the RDB and NAEB. The mission surely sparked interest with the investors and we are expecting a larger group for the 2nd mission end of January.



Picture: horticulture mission @ Bella Flowers

Spices Trade Mission Uganda

In the week of 9 December, the Netherlands Africa Business Council (NABC) organized a trade mission to Uganda for Dutch companies dealing in spices. The objective of the mission was to explore and identify new investment and trade opportunities, as well as exchange knowledge. The group of companies visited various parts of Uganda including Kampala, Gulu, Fort Portal and Kasese. The field program included multiple trips to spice farms (vanilla, cinnamon, chili, sesame, chia) as well as to processing factories (cardamom, cocoa, vanilla). Furthermore, the visiting companies participated in a matchmaking session with Ugandan spice producers and dealers. They received a briefing from Uganda Investment Authority on the existing opportunities for investment and how investors are facilitated by the Government of Uganda.



EVENTS

The Netherlands signed a grant arrangement with the Government of Rwanda to co-finance 45% of the construction of four ports at Lake Kivu: Rusizi, Rubavu, Karongi and Rutsiro. The four ports and their facilities will improve ferry and cargo transport between the Rwandan ports. They are also expected to boost trade between Rwanda and the DRC.



Picture: Ambassador Wolters signing the DRIVE project

The Dutch funds will become available through DRIVE, a financing instrument managed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency RVO, which funds public infrastructure in emerging markets that has significant development impact. The Netherlands and Rwanda believe that investments in such infrastructural projects as these ports are a stepping stone towards sustainable economic growth in Rwanda and strengthened mutual economic ties in the future.

Best Farmers Award Uganda

The annual award ceremony for 'Best Farmer in Uganda' was held on Friday November 29. This prestigious title comes with a money prize and a fully organized courtesy trip to the Netherlands for agricultural business and study purposes. The overall winner of this sixth edition was Anthony Mateega of St. Anthony Agribusiness Enterprises from Mpigi district. Mr. Mateega does mixed farming on a 40-acre piece of land. Before he could book any successes, he had to face the challenge of a lack of water. Currently he has two 20,000 liter water tanks with which he makes sure that water is steadily available.

The Netherlands Embassy, in partnership with DFCU bank, KLM, Koudijs and Vision Group are the sponsors of the Best Farmers Award, an initiative that is part of the 'Harvest Money' activities. The initiatives aims to highlight the potential of agriculture to economic development in Uganda. Also it positively affects the perception that most Ugandans hold toward agriculture as being a poor career option.



Picture: Winners, sponsors and judges together on stage during the 6th edition of the Best Farmers Competition

Business Lab Uganda

On October 26, the Netherlands Embassy in Kampala signed a contract with the Design Hub Kampala for the Business Lab Uganda (BLU) initiative. BLU is a pilot for an agricultural accelerator program aimed at supporting existing Ugandan companies to scale up, get access to capital, find new export markets and, as a result, contribute to economic growth and job creation. The expertise of a variety of Dutch players in the field of finance, HR, coaching, marketing and technical support is being brought in.

The approach is demand-led and market driven. By involving buyers and investors right from the start, agricultural entrepreneurs will be helped in bridging the gap between what their companies have to offer, what the buyer needs and what the investor wants. The result is a tailor-made approach that enables SME's to grow (organizationally and financially) and become a successful and sustainable, export-ready business. BLU organized a co-creation session with potential project partners to kick off the initiative. The co-creation session gave input to the selection of the appropriate agricultural value chains and the shaping of future steps within the BLU trajectory.



Presentation of Africa strategy of Dutch private sector organization VNO-NCW to the Dutch prime Minister

In the week of 24 November 2019, the Africa Strategy of the Dutch Federation of Employers (VNO-NCW) was presented to Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte. Rwanda and Uganda are part of the focus countries. The strategy, which has now been officially launched, aims to double the Dutch trade and investment relations with Africa by 2030. To achieve this, it intends to make full use of the opportunities created by amongst others the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, the Agenda 2063 of the AU and the AU-EU Joint Africa-EU Strategy.



Picture: VNO-NCW gives their Africa Strategy to PM Mark Rutte.

The strategy will focus on a group of 15 African nations and Rwanda and Uganda are part of this group. Rwanda specifically was categorized as a 'stable grower' and applauded for the best score on the Ease of Doing Business index on the African continent. The strategy will be a huge asset in the efforts of the Netherlands to increase sustainable trade and investment with Rwanda and Uganda. The strategy can be found [here](#) (in Dutch)

The Tenth Anniversary of the FAO-China SSC Programme and Future Perspectives for SSTC

From 25 to 27 November 2019, agricultural council Carian Posthumus Meijjes participated in the conference on FAO South - South and Triangular Cooperation in Kampala (Uganda), which also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation program. [Read more](#)

LIVESTOCK SECTOR

Dairy farmers cautioned against antibiotics

The first annual veterinarians scientific conference took place in Rwanda in the week of 2 December during which experts exposed that antibiotics residues in milk threaten the quality of all dairy products. This mainly result from the lack of sensitization to dairy farmers who administer the antibiotics to their cows by their own instead of leaving the job to trained veterinarians. [Read more](#)

Pig farmers eye regional market

Figures from the National Agriculture export Board (NAEB) shows that DR Congo is now the biggest market for pork. Rwanda Pig Farmers Association reveals that a modern processing centre will be established to ensure the pig products meet quality standards. This will help pig farmers to conquer the regional market. [Read more](#)

POTATO SECTOR

Search for post-harvest technologies as farmers battle poor prices

Potato storage technologies are needed in Rwanda in order to help farmers deal with low prices hence fighting food insecurity. Currently Rwanda produces 916,000 tonnes of Irish potato every year. [Read more](#)

Insufficient seed inspectors lead to potato seed scarcity

A limited number of seed inspectors has been a major challenge that hampers Rwanda to reach its target in terms of certified seeds (9 quality potato seeds). There is still a need to train farmers and inspectors in good production of potato seed and maintain its quality. The Dutch embassy is among partners for potato crop in Rwanda. [Read more](#)

DG Patrick Karangwa of RAB visits Wageningen UR and the Dutch potato sector

From 11 – 13 December 2020, the DG of RAB visited the Netherlands for meetings with Wageningen UR on joint research applications and to meet and discuss with the Dutch seed potato sector in an attempt to increase their interest in investing in Rwanda and which steps Rwanda could take to attract more investors in the potato sector. [Read more](#)



Picture: DG RAB and Rwandan ambassador to the Netherlands with the Dutch potato sector

TEA SECTOR

Rwanda targets over Rwf 90 bn from tea exports

Currently Rwanda tea is shipped to 42 countries worldwide. Its biggest markets are Pakistan, UK and Kazakhstan. Rwanda counts 42000 tea farmers. Their main challenge include mainly the low price and the non-availability of fertilizers on time. [Read more](#)

VARIOUS NEWS

Retailers decry rising food prices

Food prices of most of commodities have increased considerably in the past few months. Heavy rains is among the causes of this increase. For example 1Kg of potato price has doubled from Rwf 150 to Rwf 300. [Read more](#)

In this regards, Rwandan farmers received a 3 weeks training from Chinese Agricultural experts.

The training equipped them with skills to boost processing and preservation technologies of agricultural products including vegetables and fruits. [Read more](#). Emerging animal feeds industries and growth in population are among the reasons behind this food price rise. [Read more](#)

Rwanda looks up to Japan for sustainable irrigation schemes

Three districts of Rwanda have been selected to be as model area by WAMCAB, a project supported by a Japanese agency, JICA, and which seeks to improve the capacity of irrigation scheme management in those sites. Through the project Japan brings its expertise in irrigation through training and supporting farmers to utilize water from dams. [Read more](#)

China, Africa join hands for broader agric cooperation

A two days forum, dubbed "China Africa cooperation in Agriculture" took place on December 10th, 2019 in China. The purpose of the forum was to enhance relationship between China and African countries based on Agriculture modernization. Figures show a increase of agricultural volume between the 2 countries from 650 million dollars in 2000 to 6,92 billion dollars in 2018. [Read more](#).

Green cities project to create 16000 jobs

This project, worth 4 to billion USD, will benefit 150 000 people and provide 30 000 housing units. It will also support the adoption of low carbon technologies, will integrate green building and design, efficient and renewable energy. [Read more](#)

Little-known South African firm gets Uganda dam nod

Bonang Power and energy ltd is a south African firm that is going to construct a hydropower dam across Uhuru Falls in Murchison fall National park in Kampala. The dam is expected to generate 360MW electricity. [Read more](#)

Uganda Floods Death Toll Rises as Rains Continue

The floods and mudslides caused by heavy rains in Uganda have caused a death of 36 people and a total of 280 people in the East Africa region. Properties have also been destroyed and may other people left stranded.

[Read more](#)

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