

NEWSLETTER - 17 August 2020

On activities, events, studies, articles and more
Do not hesitate to contact us in case of questions, tips or trade requests.

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Since our last newsletter in April a lot has changed. COVID-19 measures were put in place and for many of you business has not been as usual. However, during the past weeks we have heard many inspiring stories of innovation, flexibility and adaptability. We also had to change our way of working as we transitioned to working from home. Moreover, we said goodbye to our Ambassador Mr. Frans Makken, who has made a strong contribution to the agricultural efforts in Kenya. With this newsletter we hope to give you a practical overview of relevant developments in the sector. *Kind regards, Ingrid Korving, Agricultural Counsellor*

COVID-19 related news

We continuously collect relevant updates and reports related to COVID19 for everyone involved in agribusiness in Kenya. We publish these on our website and our twitter. Below we have provided an overview some of the most relevant contact points for further information.

Information on COVID-19 in the Netherlands

For more information on COVID-19 in the Netherlands, visit [this website](#).

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency made an [overview](#) of useful information for Dutch entrepreneurs that are doing business in African countries.

The Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW) published an International Action Agenda COVID-19. [In the agenda](#) [in Dutch] the organizations propose steps to support Dutch businesses involved in international business.

[Dutch] De ambassade staat voor u klaar

Afgelopen weken heeft de ambassade contact met velen van u gehad om individuele vragen te beantwoorden. Blijft u graag op de hoogte van de veiligheidssituatie in Kenia? Meld u aan via het [informatieservice Buitenlandse Zaken](#). Daarnaast heeft de Nederlandse ambassade Kenia opgedeeld in een aantal (sub-)regio's met in iedere regio een contactpersoon. Zo kunnen we Nederlanders op lokaal niveau snel en efficiënt informeren indien de veiligheidssituatie hierom vraagt. *Lees hier hoe u zich kunt registreren.* Zodra er nieuws is bericht de ambassade hierover op [sociale media](#) en de [website](#).

COVID-19 in Kenya

There is a special contact point set up by the Kenyan government for COVID-19.

Business Emergency Response Centre
Ministry of Industrialization,
Trade and Enterprise Development
+254 -110922066 - advisory@trade.go.ke

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance has opened an information portal for businesses. You can find more information on their [website](#), including the consolidated private sector protocols on maintaining health and safety after reopening of the economy. For more information see [here](#).

The Kenyan Ministry of Health is the main source of information regarding COVID-19 in Kenya. It publishes a [daily update](#) on the spread of the virus and communicates measure on their [COVID-19 page](#). An 8-point economic plan valued at KES 53.7 billion to stimulate economy after the effect of COVID-19 has been unveiled by the Government of Kenya. [See this 1 pager for details](#).

Latest Publications

Departure of Ambassador Mr. Frans Makken

Ambassador Frans Makken saw the Big 4 Agenda of the Kenyan government come into existence, he witnessed new ministers come and go and focus change. Ambassador Makken, who has a background in agriculture himself, has guided, supported and represented the Netherlands throughout the last years, supporting the agricultural sector in all its aspects. In light of his departure we took the opportunity to ask Mr. Makken a few questions on his experience during his posting here with us in Kenya.

Read the full interview [here](#).



Climate-smart soils: testing soil health in Western Kenya

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Climate Smart Agriculture Study

The negative effects of climate change pose a threat to the thriving horticulture sector in Kenya. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is part of the solution. Dealing with climate related consequences within horticulture requires the adoption of improved products, approaches and technologies. To identify business opportunities and facilitate the uptake of Climate Smart Solutions a study was carried out (2019). A key question answered by this study is how to better match the growing demand for CSA solutions in Kenya with the existing supply of innovative climate smart products, technologies and services. The study also identifies the most promising market segments for companies to become active.

Find the full report [here](#)

An overview of financial instruments for agribusinesses in Kenya

The Kenyan agriculture market is dynamic with many agribusiness opportunities. Most entrepreneurs, however, still face challenges such as limited access to business advice, talent, markets, and capital. These constraints are even higher for those who are young, female, or live outside of the metropolitan regions. One of the key challenges we have heard many times from companies, is to find the right financing option. There are many different financing options out there. To assist (Dutch) agribusinesses in finding financial instruments that suit their needs, we have created [this page](#).



Business as usual?

We know that COVID-19 has clearly left and continues to leave an impact on our lives as we know it, but we were wondering how some of the agribusinesses in our network continued their business during this period. We reached out to hear your stories and learned that for example, some of the agribusinesses developed new strategies and techniques, others found new markets and some even engaged in developing online learning tools to share their knowledge.

You can read the full article [here](#).

Short Newsflashes

Changed requirements for the import of plants, seeds and planting materials into Kenya

There is a change in regards to market access of horticultural produce in Kenya. The Kenya Bureau of standards (KEBS) changed the import regulation of plants, seeds and planting materials. Check below if this has impact on your business

Read more [here](#).



Changed export requirements for horticultural produce from Kenya

There is a change in regards to market access of horticultural produce from Kenya. The European Union (EU) imposes stricter regulations for Kenyan beans, check below if this has impact on your business.

Read more [here](#).

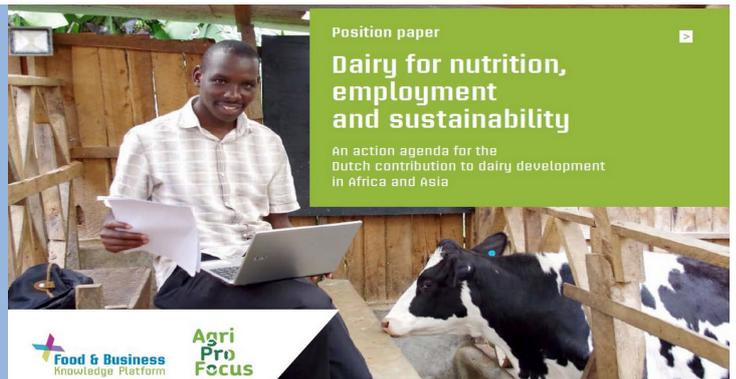


Dairy action agenda

By 2030 we want to end hunger SDG2 and ensure access to healthy, sustainable & safe food for everyone. To work towards this several Dutch organizations published the action agenda "Dairy for nutrition, employment and sustainability".

It proposes six leverage points for dairy development in emerging economies .

Read more [here](#) .



Kenya is experimenting with soilless food production

Cities in Africa grow fast. Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, is expected to have more than 10 mln inhabitants in 2040. This requires a steep increase of food production, while the acreage of agricultural land is decreasing, partly due to decreasing soil quality. In Kenya however tests with soilless production of vegetables in combination with aquaculture are shown to be successful. *Read more [here](#).*



Brochure: Your partner in quality seed

Seeds are the start of life and of a healthy crop. In order to ensure that farmers have access to the quality seed of their choice, a country needs to have a dynamic seed sector. Developing the seed sector is a complex process. The Netherlands is a partner in quality seed and shares lessons learned to develop this sector globally.

You can find the brochure [here](#).



Events & Developments



FARM TO FEED

Farm to feed, support farms and communities

COVID-19 doesn't only affect those who get the virus and feel unwell. The necessary restrictions that are put in place to keep the society safe also have an unpreventable impact on society.

As movement is restricted due to lockdowns and curfews, often already vulnerable people lose jobs, and farmers experience logistical challenges and lack consumers for their produce. Farm to Feed, a project instigated by Claire van Enk is set up to link these two groups, feed the most vulnerable communities with food sourced directly from farmers struggling to keep afloat during COVID-19.

With a donation provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality we wanted to boost this project.

Read more about the project and our donation [here](#).

Funds calling for Applications

- ◆ **The Fund Against Child Labour** is for international Dutch companies that want to end child labour in their value chain. Deadline is 5 Nov 2020 – See more [here](#).
- ◆ The Netherlands Enterprise Agency has opened a **Fund for Responsible Business Conduct (RBC)** for Dutch partnerships. Deadline is 30 SEP 2020 - See more [here](#).
- ◆ **A Kickstart voucher** is available for internationally active companies in the Netherlands. With this voucher an external advisor can be hired to support your company to reduce the impact of Covid-19 on your company. See more [here](#).
- ◆ **The Future For Nature Foundation** is searching worldwide for young, talented, and ambitious conservationists for the prestigious Future For Nature Awards 2021. Deadline 15 Sep 2020 – See more [here](#).
- ◆ **A fund for 'Rural youth employment opportunities'**: Support to Integrated Agribusiness Hubs' has been opened by the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Deadline 17 Aug 2020 – See more [here](#).



Upcoming Events

NL Business in East Africa (NLbEA) is organizing a series of interactive webinars about "Post COVID-19 Business in Kenya". If interested you can contact NLbEA directly by e-mail at info@nlbea.com

Due to the COVID-19, many of the upcoming events have been rescheduled. As soon as new dates have been confirmed we will share them on our [twitter](#) and our [Agenda](#).



Departure team member Robin Bongers

This August we say goodbye to Robin Bongers, our temporary Agriculture Officer (on the right in the picture). After her internship with us in 2018 she joined the agricultural department for several short contracts. She has been part of many of our events and projects and was wonderful contribution to our team. We wish her the best in her future career in Agriculture, here in Kenya. Robin wants to thank you all for the inspirational moments, interesting introductions and hope you all continue to thrive in business and in life. She hopes to meet you all again one day!

The Team

Ingrid Korving	Agricultural Counsellor
Elizabeth Kiamba	Agriculture Advisor Kenya
Theo Mutabingwa	Agriculture Advisor Tanzania
Manou Aelmans	Agriculture Officer

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