

NEWSLETTER - February 2021



Kingdom of the Netherlands

On activities, events, studies, articles and more

Do not hesitate to contact us in case of questions, tips or trade requests.

Agricultural Department

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The World Bank predicts that Kenya's economy will expand by 6.9% in 2021, the fastest growth rate in Africa. Even with this positive outlook, we all know that there will be challenges for companies in Kenya for doing business due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The events of 2020 have taught us a lot, probably the biggest lesson we learned has been the importance of flexibility and adaptability. That reminds me of the saying "Entrepreneurs find opportunities where most people find challenges". The agricultural team is, also in 2021, looking forward to work together on the agricultural opportunities in Kenya!

Kind regards, Ingrid Korving, Agricultural Counsellor

News

Different approaches to doing business in Kenya

On 18 January 2021, the Netherlands Ambassador Maarten Brouwer visited Kenyan and Dutch companies based in Kiambu County. This visit is part of a series of field days providing insight into Kenya. Ambassador Brouwer spoke with representatives from horticulture, animal feed and insect companies to listen to their perspective on working in Kenya. After the visit the Ambassador said: 'it was an inspiring field day providing insight into different approaches of Kenyan and Dutch companies on doing business in Kenya.'

You can read more about field visits [here](#).



Introduction Bart Kuiter - Agricultural Attaché

Bart Kuiter started as the Agricultural Attaché for Kenya. Bart is doing a two year educational position within the agriculture team at the Embassy. His role will focus on economic diplomacy and bilateral and multilateral cooperation. He has a strong interest in the combination of agribusiness and sustainability and previously worked at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) as a project advisor assessing international subsidy applications in Sub-Saharan Africa. Bart has an agricultural background from the Wageningen University in the field of environmental economics.

Read the interview (Dutch) with Bart Kuiter [here](#).

NEWS

Nominations for 2021 Africa Food Price

This price is to celebrate Africans who are taking control of the continent's agriculture agenda. It puts a spotlights on initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent.

[Read more here](#).



Nominations are now open for the 2021 Africa Food Prize



A corruption-free Kenya

For FREE assistance on CORRUPTION related cases contact our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres helpline:

Call 0800-720-721 or Sms 40019

[TI-Kenya](#) [@TIKenya](#) [Transparency International Kenya](#) [TI-Kenya](#) [TI-Kenya](#)

Determining the living wage for your employees

Living wage is an important component of responsible business conduct. A living wage is the wage received by a worker that is sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and their family. In order to calculate the gap between current wages and living wages, companies need reliable living wage benchmarks for every region they source from. IDH the Sustainable Trade Initiative has therefore developed a process that gives recognition to robust methodologies to assist companies in identifying living wage benchmarks that comply with a set of criteria. [Read the full article here](#).



FMO loan program to support Dutch exports to Eastern and Southern Africa

FMO and the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TDB), in collaboration with Atradius Dutch State Business, recently signed a 12-year export finance loan program of EUR 40 mln. The aim of this program is to enable African enterprises to procure Dutch goods and services at attractive funding conditions and loan tenors.

The program aims to support the economic and social development of the region, especially in sectors focusing on medium-sized growth companies. The loan program can serve transactions starting from EUR 3 million. [Read more here](#).

The Corruption Perceptions Index

The 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index released today by Transparency International, reveals Kenya obtained a score of 31 out of 100 having scored 28 points in 2019. The index uses a scale of 0-100 (where 100 is the cleanest and 0 is the most corrupt). Kenya's score still falls below the Sub-Saharan average of 32 and global average of 43-a score below 50 indicates serious levels of public sector corruption.

[Read more here](#).



The Challenge Fund Youth Employment is open.

Do you have a private sector-led initiatives that provides businesses with access to suitably skilled personnel and helps them to increase their employment of youth between the ages of 16-35? Then you can apply for the Challenge Fund until 07 March. [Read more here](#).



Agribusiness
Financing from farm to fork...

Events & Developments



Information on COVID-19 in Kenya

The Kenyan Ministry of Health is the main source of information regarding COVID-19 in Kenya, see their [COVID-19 page](#). In addition, The Kenya Private Sector Alliance has [an information portal](#) for businesses.

The Government of Kenya also published an 8-point economic plan valued to stimulate economy.

[See this 1 pager for details.](#)

Information on COVID-19 in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands, lockdown measures have tightened in response to concerns about new variants of the Corona virus ([see Lockdown measures tightened in response to concerns about new variants of virus | News item | Government.nl](#)). The aims of the new measures are to reduce the current infection rate, delay the spread of the original and new coronavirus variants and prevent the new variants' entry into the Netherlands as much as possible. In this light, the Dutch government is also introducing additional travel restrictions to further restrict the number of travel movements. For the latest update on changes regarding traveling find the latest letter (25-01) from the Ambassador [here](#).

For the latest updates on these changes kindly follow either [news site of the Embassy](#) or the [Netherlands Embassy Facebook page](#).



Financial instruments

- ◆ A **Kickstart voucher** is available for internationally active companies in the Netherlands. With this voucher an external advisor can be hired - See more [here](#).
- ◆ **DHI** - You can apply for the subsidy scheme for demonstration projects, feasibility studies and Investment preparation projects (DHI). More info can be found by clicking [here](#).
- ◆ **The Dutch Good Growth Fund (DGGF)** offers loans, guarantees and export financing. The fund can help you take the first step towards trading and investing in developing countries and emerging markets abroad - [link](#)
- ◆ **Partnering for Green Growth (P4G)** helps create public-private partnerships. P4G aims to advance breakthrough solutions. P4G is for SMEs, bigger companies, NGOs, knowledge institutions (except universities), local government and government institutions in the Netherlands and abroad - [Link](#)

To assist you in finding financial instruments that suit your needs, we have created [this overview page](#).

We will share upcoming events on our [twitter](#) and our [Agenda](#).

Open call AgriBiz for women and youth

AgriBiz is aimed at accelerating the engagement of women and youth in the agribusiness sector. The programme which is funded by the European Union and Danida aims at supporting 2,400 women and youth-led agribusiness enterprises across Kenya. The program now welcomes youth and women in agribusiness in Machakos, Kisii, Uasin Gishu and Isiolo to apply for incubation into AgriBiz.

Read more on the requirements [here](#).



Netherlands
Agricultural
Network

The Agriculture Team

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