



Agrifood West Africa Newsletter

June 2021



Welcome back to our newsletter

Dear Readers,

Whilst the mid-year breaks are approaching we are happy to reach out with our second newsletter of the year. Europe is carefully starting to dream of more events and maybe even missions later this year. For now it will be a mix between off- and online. In September there will be a virtual circular economy mission to West Africa, but we'll also have a physical meetings coming up. For an overview of upcoming events please check the event calendar at the bottom of this newsletter.

Looking back, the very first Bilateral Working Group on Trade and Investment with Nigeria (June 8) was a hybrid event. Lots of lessons learned but a great step forward in intensifying the relationship between Netherlands and Nigeria. Especially in Agri and Horti. If you want to know more, please reach out! After a strong campaign, including a visit of key players to the Netherlands, the Plant Variety Protection Law was signed by President Buhari of Nigeria earlier this month. Something we are very happy with especially in relationship with all our seed sector activities in Nigeria. Look [HERE](#) for an overview of our seed activities. In the meantime the tender for our new Horticulture program in Nigeria is open so we hope to extent our activities there after summer.

Also in cocoa a lot has happened and a lot is happening. There have been dialogues in the EU and also between EU and Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. In Cote d'Ivoire the EU has joined force with member states to develop a so-called Team Europe initiatives with our team in Abidjan as key drivers. After the establishment of a new government over there and the launch of the [Hortivoire](#) impact cluster we are full speed ahead. In Ghana we have also contributed to the Cocoa Dialogue series and will play a big role in the concluding event on June 30. After that we will continue to play a role in all aspects of the [DISCO](#) initiative in the two biggest cocoa producing countries.

Last but not least Lisa van der Meer has joined our team until the end of 2021. With her on board we aim to reach out more regionally and take our plans to the next level. Welcome Lisa!

For now I hope you will enjoy our newsletter. Please don't hesitate to reach out, connect and let's see what we can mix up together.

On behalf of the whole team,
-Marian, Brian, Zach, Joel, Abdul and Lisa-
Bram

In this edition:

What's new?

- Hans and Monique Crombach- The Nigeria Experience
- Importing Agri Products into Nigeria
- Exporting Agri Products from Nigeria
- Ghana Food Manufacturing Industry
- EU's Team Europe Initiative - Sustainable Cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire

Social Media

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Upcoming Events



Hans and Monique Crombach- The Nigeria Experience

For this newsletter we visit Nigeria. A country that is a region on its own and that houses many extreme's: highest number of people living in extreme poverty on earth while you find abundant wealth on Victoria Island (Lagos). Nigeria has a reputation that doesn't do justice to the kindness of its people while at the same time facing some serious and interrelated economic and security challenges. The numbers are dazzling though! But sometimes maybe a bit deceiving. With Nigeria starting to get the attention it deserves from both the Dutch public and private sector, it is important to take notes from people who have lived and worked in this beautiful country for decades. Hans and Monique Crombach are such people and we had the pleasure of speaking to Hans about their story, their experiences and their observations. Follow this [link](#) for an interesting read.



EU's Team Europe Initiative - Sustainable Cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire is the largest producer of cocoa in the world (45% of world production with more than 2.2 million tonnes) and the European Union is its first buyer (67% of Ivorian cocoa is exported to the EU). Amsterdam is obviously the entry point and The Netherlands is thus the biggest importer of cocoa in the world. Cocoa plays a strategic role in the economic and social development of Cote d'Ivoire and the sector represents about 14% of the Gross Domestic Product. From this economic reality stems a relationship of mutual interest that both partners want to see continued.



However, cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire faces three major challenges, which are deforestation, the phenomenon of child labor in cocoa cultivation and improving the income of producers. Indeed, Cote d'Ivoire has lost 80% of its forest cover, 54% of farmers live below the poverty line. To this must be added the persistence of the worst forms of child labor. In view of the difficulties of the sector, the Ivorian government has undertaken actions for several years to fight against deforestation, child labor and the poverty of producers. Follow this [link](#) to also read more on the Netherlands involvement in TEI.



Ghana's Food Manufacturing Industry

Despite a growing demand from consumers, Ghana's food processing sector remain largely underdeveloped. Although one would find a retail shop stocked with vast variety of processed foods, only a small percentage of the food consumed in Ghana are processed locally. The reality is that Ghana's processing industry remains low in capacity, with a wide gap that is filled by imports.

The Embassy and RVO commissioned a report on Ghana's Food Manufacturing Sector, identifying the critical challenges impairing growth of the processing industry, key potential solutions to resolving these challenges as well as opportunities (including opportunities for the Dutch private sector). Four broad sectors- Aquaculture, Poultry, Fruits and Vegetable were tackled under these objectives. Follow this [link](#) to learn more



Importing Agri Products into Nigeria

Nigeria relies on imports to meet its food and agricultural product needs, mostly wheat, rice, poultry, fish, food services, consumer-oriented foods, and so on, worth about €8.5 billion annually, which are mostly sourced from Europe, Asia, the United States, South America, and South Africa.

The Government of Nigeria has introduced different policies and programs, such as the Agriculture Promotion Policy, Nigeria-Africa Trade and Investment Promotion Programme (NATIPP), Presidential Economic Diversification Initiative (PEDI), Zero Reject Initiative, Economic and Export Promotion Incentives, Anchor Borrowers Program (ABP), Green Imperative, among others to support its agenda. [Read more](#)



Exporting Agri Products from Nigeria

The Netherlands is amongst Nigeria's biggest trading partners. Nigeria exports agricultural products like cocoa beans, cashew nuts in shell, frozen shrimps, ginger, fish, crustaceans, mollusks, aquatic invertebrates, oilseed, grain, seed, fruits to the Netherlands. The Nigerian government policies on agriculture are focused on agro-export promotion amongst others. There is also a growing interest of Dutch agribusiness companies in Nigeria, the focus of the Nigerian industrial policies towards earning more forex, and the growing private capital investments in the agro-export value chain has triggered an interest to study the agro-export value chain. A study was commissioned by the LNV West Africa to provide clear insights into the procedures, policies, and challenges of exporting agricultural-related products and services from Nigeria. The information is expected to guide international trade between the Netherlands and Nigeria. Increased food trade can help Nigeria meet the projected demand for food which may reach 355.1 million MT in 2028. [Continue reading...](#)



Social media

Follow on Twitter!

In this section, we let you in on some good agri-related content creators on Twitter! After you follow us at @Agri_WestAfrica, check out:

[@SCALE_@](#)
[@Solidaridad_wa](#)
[@HortifreshWA](#)



Upcoming Events

Ghana

- June 30th : Closing event EU-Ghana Cocoa Dialogue
- September (Date TBC) : Horticulture Webinar

- **September (Date TBC) : Launch of Ghana Greenhouses Impact Cluster**

Côte d'Ivoire

- **June 21 – July 22 : Co-create my city San Pedro**
- **Septembr-October: Journee National Cacao, Cote d'Ivoire**

Nigeria

- **July 7th : Stakeholder Session on Youth Inclusion in Nigeria's Ginger sector**



*We will be happy to hear from you with suggestions or enquiries. Send us an e-mail: acc-Inv@minbuza.nl
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