

Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

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The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agricultural Department

[@] kam-lnv@minbuza.nl
[tw] @NLagriUganda
[www] <https://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/landeninformatie/uganda>
<https://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/landeninformatie/rwanda>

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

Welcome to the newsletter of the agricultural department of The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda and Rwanda. In this newsletter we would like to inform you monthly on the latest news on agriculture, upcoming events, interesting studies and articles and give you updates on projects we are working on or involved in. We also give you updates on the COVID-19 situation in both countries and how this affects the agricultural sector.

*Kind regards,
Frank Buizer, Agricultural counsellor
Innocent Matabishi, Agribusiness Policy Officer
Heidi Oranje, Policy Support Officer*

Agri-News Uganda

Youth call for investment in agriculture

On the 12th of August we celebrated International Youth Day under the theme “Transforming Food Systems; Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”. [The Independent](#) wrote that Laban Musinguzi, the Executive Director of Agro Fresh Uganda, an organization that unites youths participating in agriculture and agribusiness says that government needs to invest in training youths on better farming practices and also fund investments in agriculture.

Nurudin Busingye, the team leader of Smart Youth Network Initiative, a Non-Government Organization which seeks to promote the digitalization of agriculture says that government should exploit the knowledge gained by youths in Information technologies to promote agriculture. He wants the government to work with youths to promote online marketing and shopping for agricultural products including food, farm equipment and fertilizers among others.

The youths say deliberate investment in youths in agriculture will not only create jobs but also food security and safety in the country.

Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak hits Jinja

On August 7 2021, [The Independent](#) wrote that Jinja city authorities have confirmed the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). The disease is prevalent in Masese, Jinja central business area and Budondo.

Speaking to URN on Saturday, Rajab Kiito, the Public Relations Officer Jinja city, said FMD is mainly affecting pastoralists who graze their cattle along different streets within the city.

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a viral disease of cloven-hoofed livestock and wildlife, including cattle, goats, swine, sheep and buffalos. It has occurred several times in Uganda since 1953 when it was first confirmed.

It is characterized by fever and blister-like sores on the tongue and lips, in the mouth, on the teats and between the hooves. The disease causes severe production losses, and while the majority of affected animals recover, the disease often leaves them weakened and highly unproductive.

New Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

Maj. Gen. David Kasura Kyomukama is the new Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. He joins the ministry with over 30 years of leadership experience.

Maj. Gen. Kasura-Kyomukama's focus will be geared towards the transformation of the Agriculture sector in order to stimulate and drive the agenda of socioeconomic transformation in Uganda. One of the tools will be the Parish Model so that this transformation is carried out by the people, and occurs among them based on their needs and aspirations.

"Despite the critical importance of the agricultural sector, it faces various challenges. These include low productivity while employing large numbers; low market competitiveness of our products; and the dependence on the vagaries of nature for production," Maj. Gen Kasura-Kyomukama averred. He emphasized that he will try to solve these and other challenges by utilizing a collaborative whole of government approach in order to leverage the power that working as a team stimulates.

Read the whole article [here](#).

Agri-News Rwanda

New Law to Boost Profitability of Rwanda Co-operatives

The law N° 024/2021 of 27/04/2021 governing co-operatives in Rwanda, which was published in the Official Gazette on 14/05/2021, has brought about new changes that are expected to improve the performance of co-operatives and incomes of their members.

Read the whole article from New Times [here](#).



Rwanda's Agricultural Sector Transformation Journey Over The Last 27 Years

Over the last 27 years, Rwanda has made remarkable progress as highlighted by the rapid economic growth and sharp reductions in poverty. The agriculture sector has remained pivotal in improving livelihoods of Rwandans and sustaining the country's economy. The agricultural sector accounts for nearly 30% of the national Gross domestic product (GDP). For further details please visit;

Read the whole article [here](#).

World Bank to Inject \$300 Million in Rwanda Agriculture Sector

The World Bank is also going to support a new agriculture operation before the end of the year in the amount of almost \$300M in the agriculture sector which will be critical in the recovery process due to a majority of people in the country depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

Read the whole article from New Times [here](#).

Rwandan Farmers Pin Hopes on New Tech to Tackle Food Losses

Rwanda is trying to reduce post-harvest loss by relying on new technologies to increase the amount of food available for consumption and help smallholder farmers confront some challenges caused by the overproduction of staple crops.

Read the whole article from ISP news [here](#).

Latest Publications

Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on East African economies (incl. agriculture)

Deloitte published a report which gives an analyses of COVID-19 sector heat maps across Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda and the expected recovery in 2021.

This report also gives information about the impact of COVID-19 in the agricultural sector of these countries.

Read the whole report [here](#).



Events & developments

Support to Service Training & Innovation Centers (STICs) Partnerships Rwanda

STICs are public private partnerships between educational institutions and companies. Over the past two years, they have set up companies and formulated activities that have an impact on student education, applied research and training to farmers in specific value chains.

The Dutch government has invested through Nuffic and in the *Strengthening Education for Agricultural Development* (SEAD) program in building relationships between parties, formulating business cases and project activities in five sectors, up to the commercial launch of the company with financing for the required hardware.

The agricultural department Uganda/Rwanda is now looking into a follow up project that delivers on the promise to use the hardware in a sustainable business venture and deliver on a social impact promise.



Aquaculture Impact Cluster Rwanda

This Impact Cluster is making progress in Rwanda, and already making important impact on the fish sector. Activities are proceeding well despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are working together with the Rwandan Agriculture Board, RVO and Larive international on a genetic improvement program to ensure domestic supply of high-quality tilapia broodstock and to provide a boost to the aquaculture sector in Rwanda.

The fish for the program have arrived on the 30th of June in Rwanda.

Uganda Agri-business Market Scan 2021

The agricultural department Uganda/Rwanda is conducting an Agri-business Market Scan for Uganda together with Strategic Advisory and Research Consulting Limited. The scan will be published by the end of 2021.

This scan will highlight challenges with possible solutions and bring to the fore the agribusiness evolution trends. The study will proactively support the aid and aid to trade agenda by identifying the dynamics in the sector with emphasis on opportunities, challenges, entry points, and potential for partnerships. The new scan will offer in-depth analysis with concrete and detailed business information including the impact of COVID 19 on agriculture and agri-business.

Orange Agricultural Landing Site Uganda

The Orange Agriculture Landing Site (OALS) study was delivered in June. In the coming weeks findings and follow ups will be discussed and updates will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

This study looks into the way how Dutch agro-food companies can be better serviced when entering or considering entering the Ugandan market with a kind of Holland agro-hub.



Trial and market access support for potato companies in Uganda

SEED NL has set up a potato platform. We are now in discussion with the Netherlands Potato Organization (NAO), NFP and SEED NL to set up a SEED NL potato project in Uganda, contributing to a stronger enabling environment.

Check the upcoming monthly newsletters for updates about this project.



Poultry Impact Cluster

In 2020 Larive International submitted the [piggery & poultry road map](#) for Uganda.

Later in 2020 a [webinar](#) attended by 85 Ugandan and Dutch stakeholders was organized to discuss the road map and follow ups.

The follow up is the formation of a Dutch-Ugandan consortium that will work on strengthening of the sector by demonstration, training and improvement of inputs like day-old chicks in Uganda. This will tackle the dependency of long trade flows which have proved to be fragile in current times of COVID-19 and the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and will give Dutch companies the opportunity to develop a new, more local and intensified business relationship. The agricultural department Uganda/Rwanda will support and guide the impact cluster to become reality.



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