

Agriculture Newsletter - December 2021



The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Agricultural Department

[@] nai-lnv@minbuza.nl

[tw] [@NLAgriKenya](https://twitter.com/NLAgriKenya)

[w] www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/landeninformatie/kenia

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



With pleasure I share with you our last newsletter for 2021. It has been an eventful year. Despite the second year in which we faced the effects of COVID-19, export from Kenya has increased, with new opportunities popping up. For example, we have witnessed an increasing interest and commitment to develop sea freight from Kenya. In this newsletter you will find a summary of the most recent event during which developments in sea freight were discussed. You will also find information on several businesses coming with innovative solutions to make Kenya's agriculture sector more sustainable. Everyday new partnerships are formed between Kenya and the Netherlands where knowledge and expertise are exchanged. Together we work on making the agriculture sector more resilient to face the effects of climate change and improve food security. I look forward to also working with you in 2022 to reach our shared ambitions. Wishing you a wonderful holiday period and we see each other again! *With kind regards, Ingrid Korving, Agricultural Counsellor*

News

Sustainable trade route for Kenya

On the 16th of November 2021 the Kenyan Flower Council, the High Commission of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands Embassy organized a seminar to discuss the way forward and opportunities to develop Kenyan sea freight.

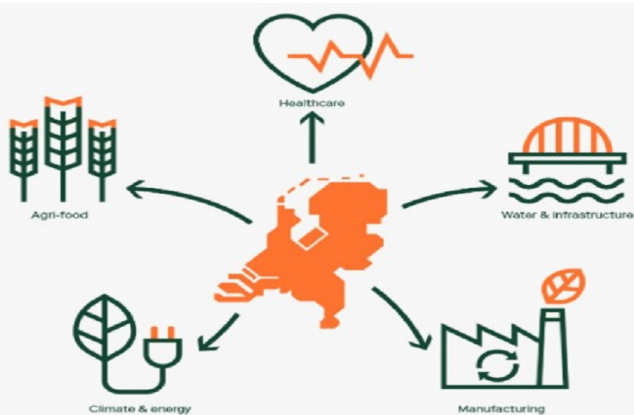
The 145 participants agreed that increasing sea freight is essential for the future of Kenya's exports. As Hon. Betty Maina, Cabinet Secretary of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise put it: "Shipping is the future, it is the only cost effective and sustainable option". *Read the full article [here](#).*



Visit Director Sub-Shara Africa to Kajiado

Director Sub-Sahara Africa from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Alle Dorhout, visited Kenya on 28th of October 2021. He visited three projects in Kajiado. One of the projects focusses on increasing resilience of agro-pastoralists and private sector actors against climate shocks by upscaling appropriate grazing and feeding innovations. The project is implemented as some parts of the county are heavily affected by lack of rainfall and lack of pasture. This makes it extra relevant to see how the implementation of climate resilient strategies into landscape management helps agro pastoralist communities. He also visited Koppert and Latia. *Click [here](#) to read more about his visit.*

NEWS



Finance for Dutch solutions to global challenges

As of the first of October 2021 Invest International is officially 'in business'. Next to RVO and FMO this new organization will provide instruments that can finance international operations. Invest International supports companies active in the Netherlands with the international financing of innovative solutions that contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Read more [here](#).

Increasing food safety in Kenya

In Kenya a growing middle class has more money to spend and is choosing to buy healthier food. That is creating opportunities, also for Dutch companies that want to invest in technology for food processing, seeds and greenhouses. The 3R project funded by the Embassy was tasked with drawing lessons from the development programmes funded by the Dutch embassy that aimed to improve food security and commercialize horticulture, dairy and aquaculture in Kenya. Read the full article of this project of Wageningen University & Research [here](#).



Opportunities to use coconut waste in Kenya

With the help of the Dutch organization PUM, James Kapombe of Cocogrow tries to improve protocols for coconut waste in Kenya. Cocogrow started in 2018 as there was a high amount of coconut husk waste in Kenya and a need for coco peat among horticulture growers. Still 99% of coco peat in Kenya is imported from other countries. This means that there are big opportunities, but there are also challenges when it comes to operating in the Kenyan market.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview.

Tilapia aquaculture in sub-Saharan Africa

Aqua-Spark released their first Aqua-Insights report with an in-depth analysis of the tilapia sector in sub-Saharan Africa. It addresses the importance of farmed tilapia in solving sub-Saharan Africa's need to produce sufficient food for its growing population. This report showcases how important it is to further scale aquaculture sustainably and its potential to feed the world in the most resource-efficient and healthy way.

Read the full article [here](#).



NEWS

Demand for quality meat is increasing in Kenya

Meat consumption in Kenya has been rising driven by urbanization and a growing middle class which has created an upswing in demand. In November 2021 Kenya held its first meat expo symposium. The symposium, themed “Safe and quality meat for nutrition, health and wealth creation” was meant to enlighten consumers on the benefits of meat safety as well as highlight the opportunities that lie in the meat sector in Kenya. Journalist, Gerald Andae gave more insight into the huge opportunity for meat trade in Kenya for countries that adhere to safety and animal welfare in the handling of meat.

Read the article [here](#).



Mashariki Summit 2021

The Netherlands Alumni Association of Kenya ([NAAK](#)) and the Netherlands Alumni Association of Tanzania ([NAAT](#)) hosted the inaugural edition of Mashariki Summit 2021 from September 21 to 23. The summit was dedicated to key emerging questions linking the COVID-19 to agriculture, food, nutrition, and security in Kenya and Tanzania. The summit was a success as it achieved its objective of raising awareness and elevating the global discussion about food production, food waste and how reforming our food systems can help end hunger by 2030.

Read more [here](#).

Improving protocols for sea shipment of roses

Intercontinental ocean shipping of agricultural products is considered more carbon and cost efficient and may provide more flexibility compared to air freight. Although sea transport is already common practice for some Kenyan fruit (avocado, pineapple), for flower export this option is still poorly explored. In 2021 therefore a pilot experiment was executed with financial support from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The experiment involved a number of Dutch flower traders and technical and logistical service providers to get more insight in failure and success factors for sea freight. Read more about the pilot [here](#).



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Digital learning to develop fish farming

Knowledge and skills are at the basis of a successful and profitable fish farming enterprise. However, access to knowledge, developed to suit the regional context, is still lacking in East Africa. This, in combination with the adoption of digital technology in Africa, offers significant opportunities to share knowledge and reach farmers, in aquaculture and other agricultural sectors online. Therefore FoodTechAfrica developed an extensive digital curriculum for African fish farmers.

Read more [here](#).



Improved forage could boost milk yields in Kenya

The year-round availability of high quality forage is key for a productive dairy system. To reach this level of production it is of prime importance to have superior forage varieties that are suited for the local conditions. WUR, Agriterro, ProDairy, Barenbrug and field partners are working together on trial plots to popularize the assorted forage crops and gain knowledge on the performance of the different forage crops under the specific conditions of different locations in Kenya.

Read more [here](#).

Nederlands rundersperma in Kenia [Dutch only]

Nederland en Kenia hebben sinds 2019 een [Landbouwwerkgroep](#), waar ook de veterinaire dossiers aan bod komen. De eerste veterinaire werkgroep heeft bijgedragen aan de start van de bilaterale onderhandelingen ten aanzien van rundersperma. Om specifiek aandacht te geven aan de gestelde kwaliteitseisen en inzicht te geven in de Nederlandse praktijk zijn er in 2020 door het Landbouwbureau op de ambassade in Nairobi in samenwerking met de branche organisatie van Nederlandse KI bedrijven en het Team Veterinaire Markttoegang een drietal webinars georganiseerd. Recent werd het aangepaste [certificaat](#) door de Keniaanse overheid goedgekeurd. Inmiddels is de eerste zending met het nieuwe certificaat naar Kenia onderweg. Lees [hier](#) meer.



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.

Information on COVID-19 in the Netherlands

For an overview of all existing measures for traveling to the Netherlands kindly use [this website](#) of the Netherlands Government.

We also share the latest updates on changes on the [Netherlands Embassy Facebook page](#).

In case you haven't done yet, [subscribe to the security list](#) to make sure you receive relevant updates and information.



DIETS tender

On 26 October 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a call for grant proposals for the DIETS programme. Organisations with experience in strengthening the implementation of national nutrition-related policies in Sub-Sahara Africa may apply for a grant between 26 October 2021 and 31 January 2022.

Kindly find more information [here](#).

Call for applications: SMEs in the Blue Economy

Are you an African company carrying out activities in areas of the blue economy? Then join in for BlueInvest Africa 2022. BlueInvest Africa is a two-day B2B hybrid event in March 2022 for companies operating in the African blue economy to exchange with African and European investors.

Kindly find more information [here](#).

Financial instruments

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) has updated their website on financial instruments that are available. You can find the full overview of instruments applicable for Kenya by selecting the country under country. See the updated website here: [Subsidies and programmes | RVO.nl](#)

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

For upcoming events check our [twitter](#) and our [agenda](#).

*We wish you all happy holidays ahead
and a great start of the New Year!*



We would like to thank Saschanne van Dam and Bart Kuiten for their effort and contribution to the agricultural team. We wish them all the best in their future careers.

The Agriculture Team

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Ingrid Korving | Agricultural Counsellor |
| Elizabeth Kiamba | Agriculture Advisor Kenya |
| Saschanne van Dam | Agriculture Officer |
| Manou Aelmans | Agriculture Officer |

For address changes or un-subscription please send an email to nai-lnv@minbuza.nl