

# Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

## January 2022



The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agricultural Department

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**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 monthly 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 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.

*Kind regards,*

*Frank Buizer, Agricultural counsellor*

*Innocent Matabishi, Agribusiness Policy Officer*

*Heidi Oranje, Policy Support Officer*

## Agri-News Uganda

### The DFCD partners with Ugandan Mandulis Energy to support waste-to-energy project

The Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD) has approved a €349,000 grant for Mandulis Energy. The fund is there to help create a closed loop of agricultural waste to clean energy to power the company's agricultural processing facilities.

Right now these facilities are powered by diesel generated energy, which is very bad for the environment.

The clean energy will also supply local mini-grids as well as power the company's fleet of electric transportation vehicle tuk- tucs that collect the agricultural waste and transport farmers crops.

Mandulis Energy is rolling out its waste-to-energy project in the Greater Virunga Landscape. It is one of the most biodiverse places on earth and features a mosaic of ancient tropical forests, ice-capped mountains, active volcanoes, savannah, swamps, and wetlands.

Read the full article [here](#).



## Training Uganda's farmers of the future

The population of Uganda is young. The youth unemployment rate in Uganda is 62% to 84%. Since a large percentage of available jobs are in agriculture, it is important to make and keep the agricultural sector attractive to young people.

Although Uganda's fertile land offers many opportunities for prospective farmers, not many young people consider a career in farming. The Skilling Youth for Employment in Agri-business (SKY) project and its successor [Skilling in Agripreneurship for increased Youth Employment](#) (SAY) show young Ugandans farming is a great career choice for ambitious youngsters who want to make a good living. SKY and SAY enable young people to gain practical experience, in close cooperation with local and Dutch agribusinesses and education and training institutes.

Read more about this [here](#).

## Exporting Jackfruit to The Netherlands

Judith Bakirya, who became 2nd place in the Best Farmer Competition in 2014, is exporting unripe jackfruit to The Netherlands.

The unripe Jackfruit, that Judith chops in small pieces and packs in airtight tins, is becoming a more and more popular product in The Netherlands, especially among vegetarians. It can be used as a meat substitute, where it looks like shredded chicken or pork.

"It tastes like meat after it has been prepared," she says. Her group, Mikono, exports at least 10 tons of this delicacy to the Netherlands each year. The fruit is harvested before it gets fibrous inside.

Judith her company is assisted by Business Lab Uganda (BLU) to create the required standards and understand the proper phyto-sanitary practices.

Read the full article [here](#).

## Agri-News Rwanda



### New targets to double agricultural lending

The government of Rwanda aims to double agriculture sector lending.

The goal is to modernize the sector, which currently accounts for nearly a third of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

At the moment a percentage of 5.2% of the total share of loans from financial institutions goes to the agricultural sector. The new target is to move this number up to 10.4% by 2024.

Read more about this [here](#).

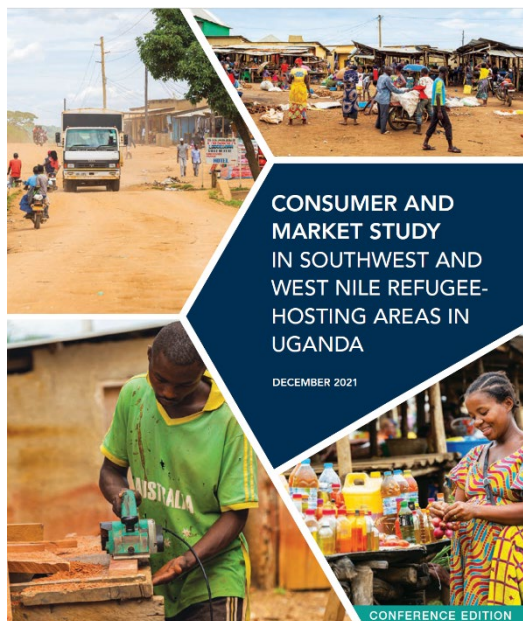
### Rwanda re-opens border with Uganda

From Monday the 31st of January, Rwanda re-opens the main border with Uganda, that has been closed since February 2019, as political tensions between Kigali and Kampala spiraled, which had a big influence on the two-way trade.

The statement stated that "following the visit to Rwanda of Lt Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, Senior Presidential Advisor on Special Operations and Commander of Land Forces of the Uganda People's Defence forces (UPDF) on January 22 2022, the Government of Rwanda has taken note that there is a process to solve issues raised by Rwanda, as well as commitments made by the Government of Uganda to address remaining obstacles. "

"Rwanda remains committed to ongoing efforts to resolve pending issues between Rwanda and Uganda and believes that today's announcement will contribute positively to the speedy normalization of relations between the two countries," it added.

## Latest Publications



### Consumer and market study in Southwest and West Nile refugee hosting areas in Uganda

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has commissioned this study to explore economic activities, employment trends, consumption levels, and consumer preferences of refugees and host communities in Uganda's largest refugee-hosting areas in the Southwest and West Nile regions.

In this report you will also find information about agricultural value chains in this region and investment opportunities in agriculture.

The study is financed by the Dutch Partnership on Inclusive Jobs and Education for Host Communities, Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Persons (PROSPECTS).

You can find the full report [here](#).

### Marketing pitch for fruit and vegetables from Rwanda

IDH sustainable trade initiative is working on a marketing activity where they want to make Rwanda more known in the international market of fruit and vegetables.

For this reason, IDH developed a marketing pitch for fruit and vegetables from Rwanda. This document is developed to give more background about the country and its production.

It is an interesting document to read, and companies can reach out to IDH if they want. IDH can help in supporting with suitable market linkages.

You can find the marketing pitch by clicking the picture on the right.



## Events & developments

### Six-part webinar series 'Putting Food Systems Thinking into Sector Practice'

Wageningen University & Research (WUR) will be facilitating a 'Putting Food Systems Thinking into Sector Practice' six-part webinar series for agrifood practitioners, who are actively interested in taking action towards achieving concrete positive food systems results. They do that as part to drive the SDG2 agenda forward.

Using real life case studies, they will demonstrate how integrated food systems and sector frameworks can be developed into workable tools.

The webinars will take place between 13:00 - 15:00 CET on March 3; March 17; March 31; April 21; May 12 and May 26. You can register via [this link](#).

### Field visit to Amelia Agro Africa Ltd.

The agricultural team in Uganda visited Amelia Agro Farm. In [the video](#) we made below you can learn more about the visit and the company.



### Aquaculture roadmap Uganda

Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) assigned Larive International and Asigma Capital Advisory Services to make an Aquaculture roadmap for Uganda.

The aquaculture sector in Uganda is one of the fastest growing sectors in the country. The advent of cage farming on Lake Victoria and the entry of major international fish farmers have been drivers of the fast growth.

As a fast growing sector, directly linked to food security, it provides interesting opportunities for the Dutch public and private sector.

The planning for the roadmap is to be published in the coming month. Events, like a webinar will be organized following the roadmap.

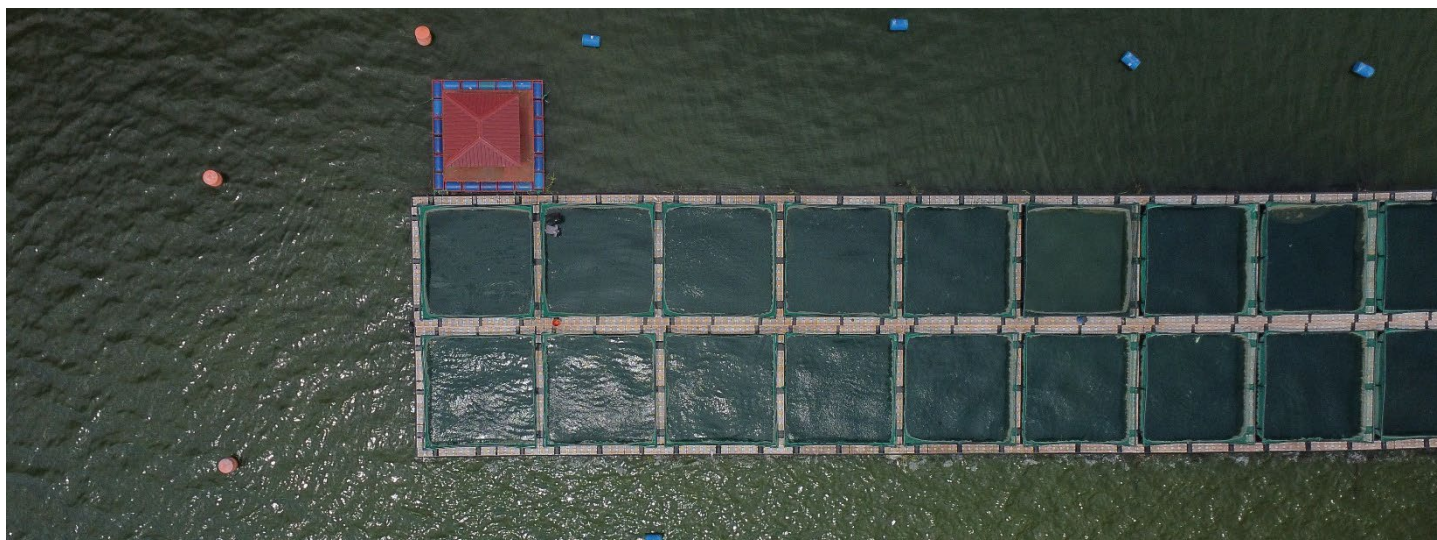
Keep an eye on our Twitter account @NLagriUganda for new updates and dates. We expect to publish the roadmap in our next newsletter.

### Business needs of female agro-SMEs in Uganda

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda have started a project that aims to clarify the position of female-led SME's in the agriculture sector in Uganda by identifying the biggest gender related constraints and barriers to scale-up their enterprises. The project uses a value chain approach and therefore addresses all female entrepreneurs in the whole value chain. Sectors that are shortlisted are: horticulture, dairy, poultry, potato, aquaculture, seeds, (jack)fruits and nuts.

In addition, the project will give an overview of the main national programs initiated by UG, NL and other donors focusing on training and empowerment of female entrepreneurs in the targeted sectors. This makes it easier for possible follow-up interventions to seek connection with the already existing investments.

The project started in the beginning of January. We will keep you updated on developments.



## Call for proposal: Circular Agribusiness Accelerator in Uganda

BopInc has initiated the [O-farms project](#), with IKEA foundation support. This project has been set up to identify and accelerate promising cases of circular agri-based enterprises to drive a transition to a circular economy in Kenya and Uganda (note: the website mentions Ethiopia, but this has changed).

In collaboration with Hive Colab and Village Capital, they are launching the first Circular Agribusiness Accelerator in Uganda and are open for calls for their first cohort.

The call for proposals is live until Feb 21st: [click here](#)



## Uganda based agricultural team visits Rwanda

The last week of January, Frank Buizer and Heidi Oranje visited colleague Innocent Matabishi in Rwanda.

During the week they had meetings in Kigali, with among others the Rwandan Development Board, Resilience, RVO and RICA. The team was updated about ongoing projects and developments in the Rwandan agriculture sector.

The team also made fieldtrips, to visit some of the STICs (service, training and innovation centers) that they are working with, and the Aquaculture Impact Cluster to see the progress they have made.

We will write more about this visit in our next newsletter, and we will make vlogs of our visits.

We will keep you posted!



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