

Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

February 2022

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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

Save the date: Harvest Money Expo 18 until 20 March 2022!

We are happy to announce that the annual Harvest Money Expo will physically take place again from 18 until 20 March 2022.

Like previous years, The Netherlands Embassy in Uganda will organize the popular Netherlands Village as part of the Expo. The village is a great opportunity for companies to exhibit, receive guests, attend, organize workshops and much more!

Are you a Dutch or Dutch Ugandan company or partner in business of The Netherlands? You are welcome to exhibit at the Expo. It is an opportunity to give presentations, workshops or demonstrations about your company and what you do.

Apply for participation by sending an email to: KAM-LNV@minbuza.nl

Read more about the expo [here](#).

HARVEST MONEY EXPO 2022
THEME: FARMING AS A BUSINESS

BACK OUTDOORS

DATE: 18TH – 20TH MARCH | 2022
VENUE: KOLOLO AIRSTRIP
TIME: 8AM - 6PM

Come and get information and knowledge to increase earnings from agriculture through value addition.

FEE	UGX 20,000	Entrance & Training Daily
	UGX 10,000	Entrance only, daily

CALL: 0787511106 TO BOOK A STALL NOW

NENVISION

FAO and Agricycle Global teamed up to work on fruit and vegetable value chain

To develop the fruit and vegetable value chains, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Subregional office for Eastern Africa and Agricycle Global Inc. agreed to work together in nurturing youth groups in Kenya, and refugees and host communities in Uganda.

It is critical to engage and invest in youth in order to address issues like unemployment, food and nutrition insecurity and rural exodus, says David Phiri, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa.

This partnership will scale up collective multistakeholder efforts, and bring about country-owned and country-led innovative solutions to help target groups to improve their livelihoods.

Read the full article [here](#).



Uganda withdraws from the International Coffee Organization (ICO)

Uganda decided not to renew their two year extension of their membership, effective from February 2nd.

Coffee is an important (export) product for Uganda. The country is world's eighth largest producer of coffee. In Africa it is the largest robusta producer.

According to a report by Bloomberg, the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) wants the ICO and its agreement to do more with price volatility, climate change, and import tariffs.

You can read the full article [here](#).

Off season vegetable production

David Baguma, an agronomist and vegetable expert from East West Seed Knowledge Transfer, says it is during the off-season period that farmers have to give their all to exploit the best market prices.

To realize profits, farmers can produce vegetables off-season, which is usually the period when everyone is seated waiting for the rainy seasons.

Davis explains that in those periods, the demand for vegetables is high and supply is low and it is this time that the farmers dictate the market prices.

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

Agri-News Rwanda

Impact cluster for pellet fuel value chain in Rwanda

In Rwanda, around 40% of the country's air pollution comes from traditional cooking using solid fuels like charcoal. It also causes severe health issues among women and children. That is not necessary because there are good alternatives available. Using pellets as a cooking fuel is cleaner, faster, and more affordable than charcoal. To encourage the transition to this cleaner cooking fuel, several organizations have teamed up to set up a value chain. For further details please visit [this](#) link.



FAO to strengthen Rwanda's capacities on sustainable soil management

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has launched a project that will support the country to improve fertilizer recommendations.

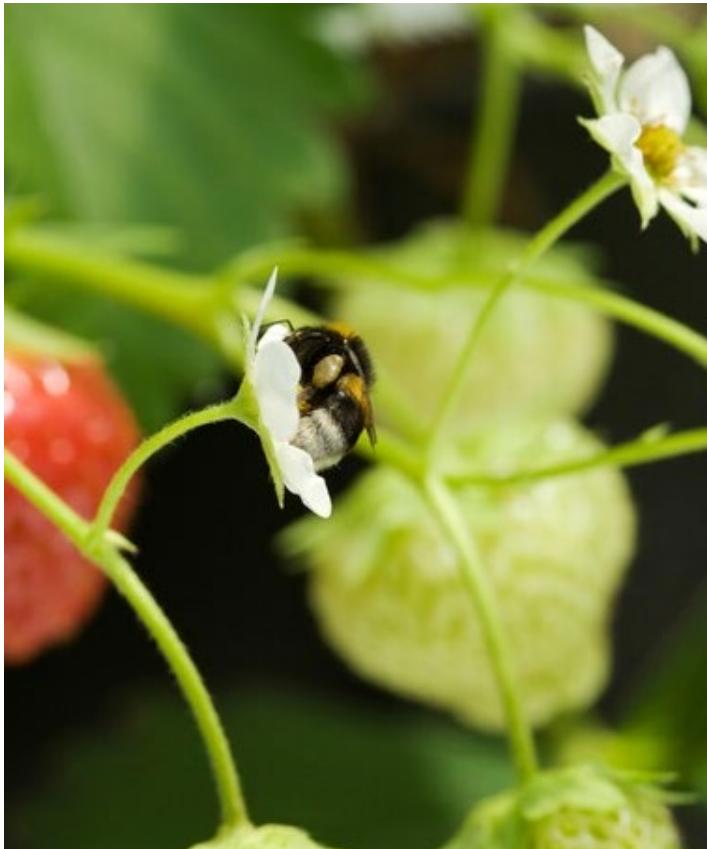
The two-year project "Capacity Development on sustainable Soil Management for Africa (2) – Rwanda" will develop fertilizer recommendations adapted to the local crops and soil requirements for improvement of food production and soil health.

Read more about this [here](#).

Rwanda National Agricultural Export Board announces results of second quarter for Financial Year 2021/2022 of agro-exports

Total revenues of USD 158,538,598 was registered from exportation of agricultural products, representing an increase of 39% compared to the same period in 2020/2021 fiscal year, where revenues generated were USD 114,054,060. Vegetable export revenues increased by 3.3%, fruits by 34.6% and flowers by 48.8%.

Read more about this [here](#).



Revitalizing Rwanda's beekeeping to increase quality and quantity of bee products

The beekeeping industry in Rwanda has made major advances in the past 20 years, although production is still mainly through traditional methods. The country projects to increase the net production of honey to 8 611 metric tons by 2023/24, according to the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA 4).

The main bee products exploited in Rwanda are honey, beeswax and propolis (used in medicines) and other products such as royal jelly, pollen, bee venom and bee brood. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), are working together to implement a new project that will develop the capacities of beekeepers in modern beekeeping skills to increase production of quality and quantity of bee products. For further details please visit [this link](#).

Latest Publications

AGRF 2021 'pathways to recovery and resilient food systems' report

From September 6-10 2021 the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) took place in Nairobi, Kenya.

In [this report](#) you find a summary and the highlights of the event, and you can read about the outcomes of among others the working group sessions.

You will also find a link to the Africa Agriculture Status Report 2021 and the Agriculture Trade Monitor Report

The launch of this year's summit will take place on March 3. You can [register here](#) to join.

The cover of the AGRF 2021 report. It features the AGRF logo at the top left, followed by the text "AGRF 2021 SUMMIT Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems". On the right side, there is a photograph of a woman in a yellow dress standing next to a banana tree. Below the photo, the title "AGRF 2021 PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS" is written in large, bold letters, along with the date "SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2021 NAIROBI, KENYA". At the bottom, the word "REPORT" is printed in large, bold letters. The background of the cover is dark green with some light green diagonal stripes at the bottom.

Events & developments

Introduction and visit to the Aquaculture Impact Cluster Rwanda

The last week of January, the agricultural team made a visit to the Gishanda Demo Fish Farm project, a collaboration between Akagera Management Company and FoodTechAfrica. They seek to develop aquaculture in the east of Rwanda, where fishing and fish farming to date has been largely subsistence-level, leveraging Dutch expertise in aquaculture.

We made the vlog below, where we interviewed Mathilde Murebwayire. She was selected as a Production Operations Manager for the project.



Field visit of the LAN team to the Potato Service Training and Innovation Center in Rwanda

In that last week of January the agricultural team also visited one of the Service Training and Innovation Centers (STIC) in the North West of Rwanda.

STICs are public private partnerships between educational institutions and companies. The Dutch government has invested through Nuffic and in the SEAD program.

In this video the potato STIC is explained by Saidi Rumanzi Mbaraka, who is the team leader of the potato STIC.



Visit to Gabiro Agribusiness Hub Project Rwanda

Recently, Innocent Matabishi, Policy Officer Rwanda of the agricultural team, visited the Gabiro Agribusiness Hub Project (GAHP) to get a better understanding of the progress of constructions happening in Gabiro area.

The GAHP is a commercial oriented farming project that aims to develop a commercial agricultural ecosystem with an advanced modern value chain over approximately 15,600 hectares of arable land, with advanced water infrastructure, high-value agro-processing operations and other agriculture technology activities. The first phase of the project covers 5600ha of land and is well on its way. The Government of Rwanda is looking for investors who might be interested to develop a plot at the Gabiro area. The Embassy, together with TRAIDE Rwanda, is supporting this. Please get in touch if you want to receive more detailed information on the site and the project.



Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) launches projects Water for Food Programme

Through the Water for Food Programme, NWP offers organisations financial support, so they can further develop and test their international business cases. In conjunction with an independent review committee, NWP selected [three submissions](#) that will receive financial support for their project proposals.

One of the submissions is 'From Groundwater Pollution to Food Solution: A SEMILLA Sanitation and SkillEd project with local technical assistance from Cordaid Uganda.'

In this circular concept wastewater from pit latrines in a refugee camp in Uganda is processed into valuable products like biogas, compost and irrigation water. These products in turn are used to grow food, including fruit trees and vegetables.

Read more about the project [here](#).



Aqua-Spark will publish a 90-page industry report about digital aquatech in April

The report will give a picture of the current digital aquatech landscape and has inspiration to get involved in aquatech to. It is intended as a long-term reference work. It focuses on digital farm and supply chain technologies for pond-based aquaculture and cage farming operations.

We will keep you updated.

Orange Knowledge Programme Scholarships – application deadline 7th March

There is still time to apply for one of the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) Scholarships, that are managed by Nuffic. The scholarships are a 5 year programme for mid-career professionals who hold the nationality, or are a resident and working in one of the countries on the OKP Country list, which Uganda and Rwanda are part of.

Professionals interested in developing their skills in sustainable and inclusive food systems, can apply to one of the [11 courses](#) offered.

You can read more about the procedure [here](#).



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