

Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

March 2022



The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agricultural Department

[@] kam-Inv@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 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

Award-winning Ugandan Fintech startup Emata has partnered with the Netherlands Embassy in Uganda to accelerate the availability of affordable digital loans to smallholder farmers in Uganda

Emata, who recently won the Best Newcomer in Africa Award at the Global Startup Awards, is an innovative financial inclusion company that uses technology to bring affordable digital loans to millions of farmers. The startup is the first agricultural lender in Uganda to automate the entire loan process. In that way Emata can deliver loans to small and remote farmers.

The partnership includes a grant of up to USD 590.000 to fund loans to thousands of smallholder dairy farmers across the country.

In the Netherlands Village at the Harvest Money Expo, the new agro-financing partnership was launched by Ambassador of The Netherlands in Uganda Karin Boven.

The National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) trains 540 youth leaders across the country in dairy farming

The training took three days, from 16th to 18th March. It was organized at eight centers across the country, and was set to prepare the youth to receive dairy cows.

The NAADS Secretariat has procured 540 heifers targeting 540 youth leaders. The training involved taking the youth leaders to dairy farms for a hands-on experience in the management of dairy cattle that included understanding the different breeds of dairy cattle, animal feeding and treatment and much more.

Read more about this [here](#).



Looking back to a successful edition of the Harvest Money Expo 2022

The annual Harvest Money Expo is an initiative of Vision Group. The Netherlands Embassy is a sponsor by organizing the Netherlands Village, a place where Dutch companies, Dutch-Ugandan companies and partners in business of The Netherlands get the opportunity to exhibit, receive guests, meet potential clients and partners, do business and organize and attend workshops.

On the first day, the Harvest Money Expo was officially opened at The Netherlands Village by Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Frank Tumwebaze, The Ambassador of the Netherlands in Uganda Karin Boven and the CEO of Vision Group Don Wanyama.

The theme of this Expo was 'Farming as a business – Value edition'. A very relevant theme, as The Netherlands is a country where agriculture is one of the main drivers of economic growth and prosperity. Farming can be profitable, can raise the incomes and livelihoods of millions of farmers and can create much needed jobs for the youth.

The Netherlands village has provided a snapshot of what the Netherlands has to offer in Food Security, Private Sector Development and especially Agribusiness. It has brought out a touch of Dutch culture and allowed people to share and learn from each-other. We look very much forward to next year!



Agri-News Rwanda



Six water ponds built for farmers in Rwanda

In Rwanda, more than one-third of farmers have limited access to clean water as most need to travel far to fetch water for consumption and irrigation. But since farmers in the western district of Rulindo are predominately vegetable growers, there is a huge need for water.

One of the few options for them is rainfall, but much of the water runs-off from its steep hills owing to the area's mountainous landscape.

To improve water management, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) says it built six water ponds to support local farmers of the Yanze Horticulture Production Cooperative (YAHOPROC).

For further details please visit [this link](#).

Rwanda retains top spot in delivering Africa's agriculture plan

For the third time in a row, Rwanda emerged the best performing country in implementing the seven commitments of the June 2014 Malabo Declaration, which seeks to end hunger and halve poverty by 2025 through advancing agriculture.

Read more about this [here](#).

Rwandan farmers become major tea factory owners

Five thousand small-scale farmers in Rwanda have been handed ownership of the country's largest tea factory by British philanthropists. The Wood Foundation and Gatsby had owned the plant since it was privatized by the Rwandan government in 2012. It is the first factory to be 100% owned by smallholder farmers in Rwanda.

For further details please visit [this link](#).

Meet Rwanda's promising agriculture sector startups

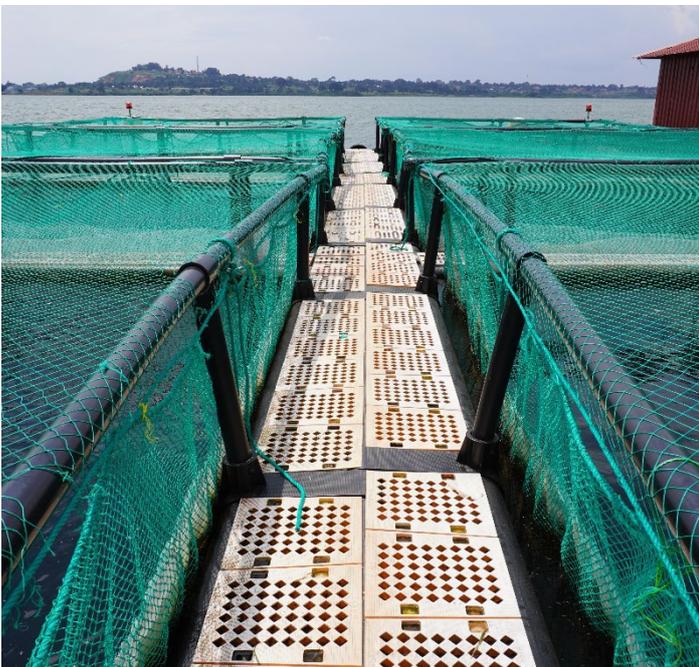
After an intense pitch, 6 Rwandan startups emerged as winners in a food challenge organized by the UN World Food Program (WFP) and Impact Hub Kigali (IHK), and each startup walked away with \$ 50,000.

The IGNITE Food Systems Challenge aimed at investing in and supporting Rwandan ventures that are contributing to improving food security in Rwanda.

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



Latest Publications



Aquaculture road map Uganda

The 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.

You can find the road map [here](#).



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