

Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

June 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

Launch of Best Farmer Competition

The Best Farmers Awards play a role in promoting best agricultural practices in agriculture and scaling up to commercial farms.

The competition was launched at the strawberry farm of previous winner Rebecca Azza Ssenkubuge on the 10th of June. The Best Farmers Awards is a collaboration between Vision Group, the Netherlands Embassy, DFCU bank, KLM and Koudijs.

For the last 7 years, 85 winners have been crowned in the competition. The 2022 competition will be a contest between the previous winners. Therefore, this year's competition is not only a competition for the best of the best but also an evaluation to look back and establish how the Best farmer Program has positively impacted the image of farming as a business (mindset change), has connected local (Ugandan) enterprises to markets, and supported Uganda's vision of agricultural transformation since its inception.

Deputy Ambassador Joost van Ettro officially launched the competition.

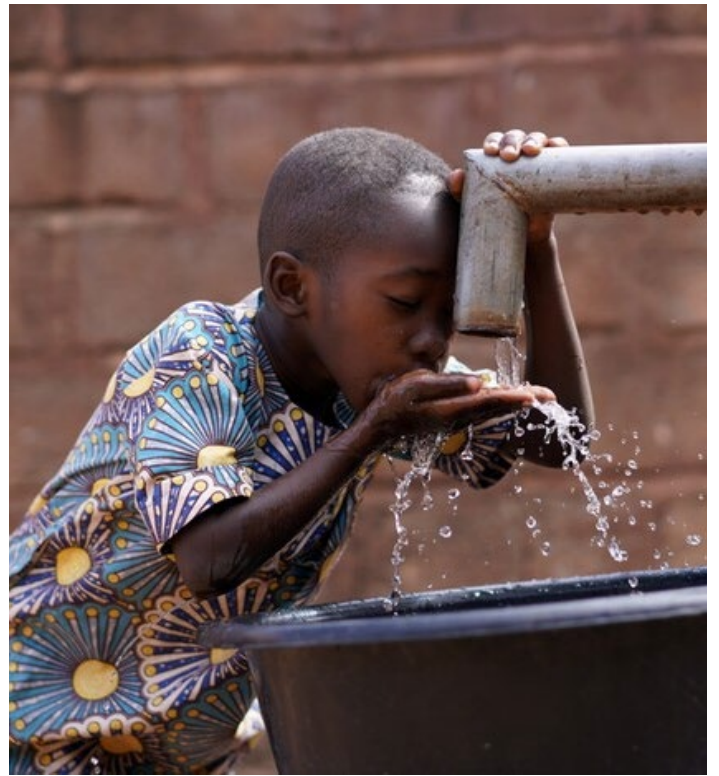


Global Environment Facility approves \$18 million to support FAO-led projects in Africa and Latin America

In total there will be three projects – one in Venezuela, one in Nigeria and a regional initiative encompassing Malawi, Mozambique, and Uganda. They will improve the management of protected areas, protect biodiversity in lowland forests, and build water security and resilience.

The regional project in Malawi, Mozambique and Uganda brings sustainable management of groundwater to the forefront of water security for resilient livelihoods, ecosystems and investments in Africa. It supports the African Ministers' Water Council through their pan-African groundwater program.

Read more about this [here](#).



Nutrition and enhancement of agricultural production by planting improved seed varieties

In the second week of June, prominent farmers and agriculture officers from seventeen districts in western Uganda met at Mbarara Zonal Agricultural Research Development Institute (MbaZARDI) where they discussed nutrition and enhancement of agricultural production by planting improved seed varieties.

The interaction was part of a nationwide effort to promote the use of improved planting materials by farmers.

Read more about this [here](#).

Aquaculture baseline survey in central region launched by Uganda government

The survey, that is intended to generate data about Ugandans that are involved in Aquaculture at the lowest level was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF).

This activity promotes the Environmentally Sustainable Commercial Aquaculture Project (PESCA) in Uganda funded by the European Union which is part of a 10 million euro grant to MAAIF.

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



Opportunities in urban agriculture

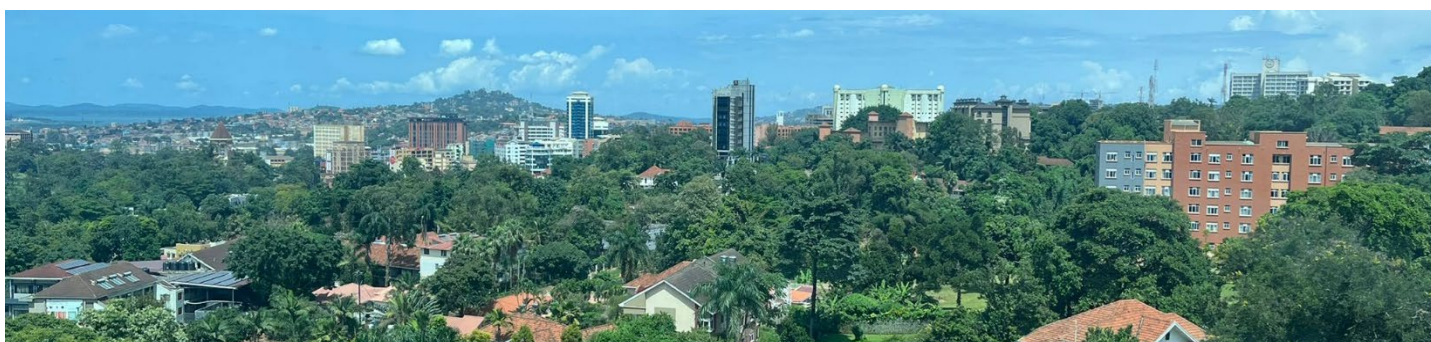
Kampala has grown at a rapid pace in recent decades. With an average growth of more than 5%, the city now covers about 850 km². The number of inhabitants is expected to increase from just under 4 million now to more than 7 million in 2035. Well-thought-out planning is therefore necessary to absorb this growth. One of the things that can contribute to sustainable development of a city, and which has a lot of potential in Kampala, is urban agriculture.

Kampala is close to the equator and, like many other cities in the world, suffers from poverty and food insecurity. The strategic plan of the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) lists various strategies and measures in the field of food security. Urban agriculture development is a central part of this strategy. The main aim of this is to increase the local production of food.

Michael Kirya, manager at the Kyanja Agricultural Resource Center in Kampala, emphasizes the importance of urban farming. The Kyanja Center aims to involve residents of Kampala in expanding urban agriculture as a source of income and food security.

Kyanja works together with the Dutch business community. Holland Greentech Uganda, in collaboration with partners, has set up a vegetable demonstration plot in Kampala to demonstrate the impact of modern cultivation practices. For example in the field of hybrid seeds, fertilization, irrigation and soil research.

Do you want to know more about this subject? Watch a video of the recent visit of the agricultural team to the Kyanja Center [here](#). Or read [this](#) article (in Dutch).



Agri-News Rwanda

World Bank Approves \$2.3 Billion Program to Address Escalating Food Insecurity in Eastern and Southern Africa.

The World Bank Group approved a \$2.3 billion program to help countries in Eastern and Southern Africa increase the resilience of the region's food systems and ability to tackle growing food insecurity.

Food system shocks brought on by extreme weather, pest and disease outbreaks, political and market instability, and conflict are becoming more frequent and severe, putting more people at risk of food insecurity.

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

Agriculture budget to focus on containing fertilizer costs and ensuring food security

The over Rwf 153 billion proposed budget for the agriculture sector in the next fiscal year, will focus on increasing food production through containing the rising fertilizer costs, and ensuring food security amid the growing commodity prices, officials have said.

However, this proposed spending represents a decrease of 4.4 % or Rwf 7.2 billion compared to the over Rwf 161 billion under the revised budget for the current fiscal year, which will conclude on June 30, 2022.

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



Rwanda will host the Africa Green Revolution Forum Summit in September 2022

The African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) will be held from 5 to 9 September 2022. The focus will be on exploring the actions that are needed to accelerate strategies towards food safety systems.

Another focus is to provide a platform for alignment on shared continental priorities and progress towards building food systems that deliver for people and the planet at large.

Read more via [this](#) link.

Events & developments

Visit of country team to Uganda

Colleagues from various directorates of the Sub-Saharan Africa Directorate visited Uganda to, together with the Netherlands Embassy in Kampala reflect on the cooperation between The Netherlands and Uganda.

In the coming weeks the multi annual country strategy is being drawn up, and to work on that together, several meetings and field trips were organized.

The agricultural department was part of the organisation of field trips to the Mbarara region, where we visited various dairy cooperations and projects with SNV, that are actively supported by The Netherlands.

We also visited other businesses and projects, like Business Lab Uganda, Healthy Entrepreneurs, ProTeen and Hortimap.

During the last days the team discussed about themes like climate and youth, and possible cooperation in the future.



Trade mission sustainable agriculture Ivory Coast and participation SARA 2022

Are you active in sustainable agriculture? And are you curious about your market opportunities in Ivory Coast and West Africa? Then join the trade mission to Abidjan from 25 to 29 November 2022.

During this mission, you will also participate in the SARA (Salon de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Animales) fair, the most important agricultural fair in West Africa.

This mission is interesting for sustainable, innovative and/or inclusive companies from the Dutch ecosystem.

More information [here](#).

Rwanda Agrishow 2022

The national agriculture show will be organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources for farmers and other stakeholders to showcase innovations and best practices in the agriculture sector.

The theme of this year's agrishow is: 'Building resilience in agriculture through modern technologies'.

There will also be a Holland Pavilion where Dutch agri-business companies, active and/or interested in business opportunities in Rwanda showcase their products, innovations and services.

The Agrishow will be held from the 6th to the 14th of July at Mulindi/Gasabo showground.



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Agriculture
& Animal Resources

15th NATIONAL AGRICULTURE SHOW
**"Building Resilience in Agriculture Through
Modern Technologies"**

KIGALI, GASABO
MULINDI

06 - 14 JULY 2022

4127



Call for proposals USAID/Uganda Civil Society Strengthening Activity

The USAID/Uganda Civil Society Strengthening Activity (USAID/CSSA) are looking for a five-year project that will support the capacity strengthening of Ugandan CSOs to influence and contribute to improved development outcomes in four thematic areas: focus on (1) health, with particular attention paid to achieving Uganda's HIV/AIDS' reduction goals; (2) education, youth, and child development; (3) **agriculture and food security**; and (4) democracy, rights, and governance.

Find more information [here](#).

Webinar Series: Putting Food Systems Thinking Into Sector Practice

As part of the work that Wageningen University & Research (WUR) and Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP) are delivering to drive the SDG2 agenda forward, they facilitated a six-part webinar series about putting food systems thinking into practice.

The webinars are aimed towards food professionals and agri-food practitioners who are actively interested in taking action towards achieving concrete positive food systems results.

You can now watch all the webinars back via [this](#) link!

Event calendar

- 6 – 14 July: [Rwanda Agrishow](#) 2022
- 5 – 9 September [Africa Green Revolution Forum Summit](#)
- 5th & 6th of October: [Poultry Africa](#) 2022, Kigali Rwanda



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