

# Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

## October 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 potential of bamboo

With amounts to over 50,000 hectares (about 124,000 acres) annually, the cutting down of trees for fuel and timber is among the largest causes of forest loss in Uganda.

Bamboo has the potential to relieve forests of the pressure to provide fuel and material for products like furniture, says Moreen Uwimbabazi, a researcher and the project leader of forest product and services programs at the National Forestry Resources Research Institute.

Uganda now invests in bamboo as a sustainable way to reverse the worrying trend of deforestation. With the 2019-2029 Uganda National Bamboo Strategy and Action Plan, the government intends to rehabilitate 375,000 hectares (927,000 acres) of forests by 2030, while creating opportunities for employment and economic growth.

Read more about this [here](#).

## Fish farming as a profitable business

Our agricultural team joined the opening of Gishanda fish farm in Rwanda in October. At the event we spoke to many of the stakeholders of the aquaculture impact cluster that the fish farm is part of. The stories and experience of everyone is inspirational. It was impressive to see the techniques that the farm was built with, like the solar panel system.

Fish farming can be a profitable venture but is often hindered by numerous challenges. We came across an article that explains the challenges and talks about solutions and possibilities. For example how to improve the water quality of your fish pond.

Read the article [here](#).

## DFCU bank's Business Accelerator Program starts skills training for 30 women in agribusiness

A few weeks back the agriculture team joined the launch of the program, powered by DFCU limited and Rabo Foundation. It is set up for Women owned agribusinesses, operating in and around Kampala in various value chains.

The training will run for 4 months, and started October 11<sup>th</sup>. The goal is that at the end of the training, the participants shall have acquired skills and tools to support in business strategic positioning and business model validation, branding, accounting, tax advisory and have links to affordable financial services.

Read more about it [here](#).

## Uganda-EU Business Forum 2022

During the second edition of the forum, which took place on 26 & 27 October, Vice President Jessica Alupo said the government is keen to attract more investments from the European Union.

The EU is Uganda's second largest market, especially for agricultural products.

Ambassador Karin Boven also attended the business forum, and gave her remarks at the session 'Agriculture & Agribusiness'.

She said that by boosting business through the promotion of trade and investments, some of the most pressing challenges Uganda faces can be addressed.



## Agri-News Rwanda



## Rwanda and EU sign financing agreement worth €69 million to support climate-smart and inclusive agriculture

This is a three year financing agreement, and will be implemented in two ways: targeting progress achieved on farmers' incomes and better services delivery to farmers at local level including land husbandry and climate-smart agricultural practices with a focus on agroforestry and landscape restoration. And complementary support for inclusive and sustainable high-value chains in horticulture and aquaculture.

Read more about this [here](#).



## Free fertilizers and intensifying irrigation efforts for farmers

Rwanda is offering this as a response to high food prices, and drought that is threatening to cause crop production failure.

Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Gerardine Mukeshimana issued the special instructions for the farming season that starts from September 2022 and runs through February 2023.

The free fertilizers are a relief for the farmers, who have dealt with high prices the past months. This will lower the cost of food production, also resulting in lower prices for consumers.

Read the full article [here](#).



## Youth urged to tap into food systems for jobs at global forum

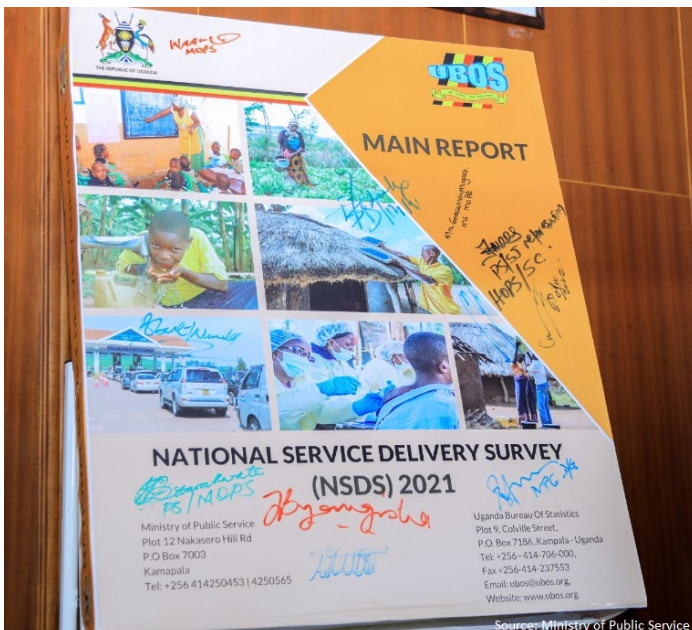
The last week of October, the International Young Farmers Summit took place in Kigali.

The theme of the week was 'Youth in agricultural transformation through innovation'. Youth from all over the world came to discuss their challenges and difficulties as well as solutions.

The forum was an opportunity to spread the voice of young farmers in the international arena.

Read the article [here](#).

## Latest Publications



## The National Service Delivery Survey 2021

On October 4<sup>th</sup> this report was launched in Uganda. This survey collected information on Agricultural services but also on sectors like Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Environmental Management, Energy Use and Minerals, Lands and Housing Conditions; Justice, Law and Order, Transport services, Public Sector Management and Accountability.

The survey is aimed at providing information about the performance of the selected sectors for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring at all levels of governance. The Agriculture paragraph is worth scrolling through. You can find the survey [here](#).



## Events & developments

### Alternative ingredients for poultry feed

The third edition Poultry Africa took place in Kigali in October, and we look back on a successful event. Our agriculture office, in cooperation with RVO, NFP (Netherlands Food Partnership) and VIV set up an 'Alternative ingredients for Feed' booth and united important players in this sector. ProEnto, New Generation Nutrition and FeedTech Kenya partners Larive, Lattice and InsectiPro presented their work.

Agricultural Counsellor Frank Buizer explains: "the insect industry is on a growth path in Africa. It needs to scale up quickly to meet the potential demand from the poultry sector. Dutch knowledge, experience and entrepreneurship are valuable assets in this stage of development. Our embassies in East Africa are keen to make the connections and help this sector grow."

As a follow-up to the 'insect as feed' activities at Poultry Africa, embassy staff from East Africa will be visiting Dutch insect farms and businesses in the beginning of November. Meetings will also be held with Dutch knowledge, business and development partners interested in supporting exchange and learning within the African insect for feed and food industry.

### Opening Gishanda fish farm

Ambassador of The Netherlands in Rwanda Matthijs Wolters and Deputy Director General for Animal Resources Development Solange Uwituze officially opened the fish farm on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October.

'The Gishanda Fish Farm illustrates the sustainable impact of public-private partnerships and the long-term benefits for the growth of the aquaculture sector in Rwanda. Rwanda's communities will benefit from the innovative circular economy model that the Gishanda Fish Farm embodies.' Matthijs Wolters said.

During the opening stakeholders and visitors got to see the farm up and running. We learnt more about the building process, and what impact this fish farm will have on the community and Rwanda as a country.

Watch [this video](#) to learn more.



### Event calendar

- 7- 18 November: [UN Climate Change Conference](#), Egypt
- 18 November : [Greenhouse training](#) Uganda by Holland Greentech
- 10 – 12 February : Harvest Money Expo

## YALTA Regional Summit

On October 25 and 26, Netherlands Food Partnership in collaboration with PELUM Uganda organized the YALTA Regional Summit, under the theme 'Accelerating youth driven agroecological businesses for sustainable food systems'. The summit brought together more than 200 young agroecological entrepreneurs and agroecology and business experts from Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Uganda to build on the outcomes of the Youth in Agroecology and Business Learning Track Africa ([YALTA](#)).

Agricultural Counsellor Frank Buizer gave a speech at the event and said: 'youth are drivers of change, and, generally speaking, more open to innovations in agriculture. So the improvements needed to make agriculture futureproof and more sustainable in this region should come from you!'

In panel discussions and interactive sessions they identified best practices to replicate and scale in the field of market access, effective adoption of agroecological principles and the creation of a conducive business ecosystem for young entrepreneurs to thrive.



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