

Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

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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

Fairtrade Unveils Living Income Reference Price for Ugandan Coffee

The reference price is part of a broader effort to boost incomes for smallholder coffee farmers throughout the coffee-growing world.

Fairtrade International said that average arabica prices in Uganda's coffee sector are approaching or even reaching the new benchmark livelihood prices, which is more than double what farmers received during the price crisis.

In the report about Uganda, Fairtrade noted that living-income price discovery "is a journey" which requires participation from a number of stakeholders.

As part of the Uganda project, the Dutch company Fairtrade Original has committed to maintaining the living-income reference price as a minimum in its dealings with the Ugandan supplier Ankole Coffee Producers Cooperative Union (ACPCU).

Read the full article [here](#).



How Uganda could protect itself from global food supply shocks

The FAO has published a study (see latest publications in this newsletter) that found that modest but well-prioritized investments in Uganda's agricultural sector could in the long run improve the welfare of tens of thousands of households, lower food prices and benefit the economy.

The research was done with Ugandan government and public institutions and consists of three studies. The first study identified agri-food sectors where public investment has the most positive impact on economic growth and poverty reduction while the second study zoomed-in to determine the districts where those high impact agri-food sectors have the most potential for production (yields) and poverty reduction. The final study analyzed what types of investments are specifically needed for the sectors identified and districts pinpointed.

Read more in [this](#) article.



Standards in animal feed sector enforces by manufacturers

Animal feed manufacturers have started a move under their umbrella body Uganda Animal Feed Manufacturers Association (UGAFMA) that will see them clean their business of quacks by enforcing standards to be followed by all dealers.

Dr. Samuel Lule, the head of the desk of animal feeds in the Ministry of Agriculture says that the chain of animal feeds involves manufacturers, those who mix, dealers, transporters and farmers but along the chain, standards have been disregarded.

David Waliggo, the UGAFMA Secretary General, tells that they started a process that will see them regulate the sector of animal and chicken feeds.

Read more in [this](#) article.

Agriculture is key to Uganda's development

Uganda has fertile land that, if properly utilized, could transform the country into the food basket of East Africa and beyond. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Uganda's arable land can feed 200 million people. FAO made a report that states that at least 80% of Uganda's land is arable, but only 35% is cultivated.

About 70% of Uganda's population is employed in agriculture. However, most of these farmers engage in subsistence farming and agriculture in Uganda also relies heavily on rainfall, so when the rain fails to come, farming activities come to a halt. Another pitfall is the limited availability of good quality seeds and poor crop storage. Many farmers do not have the funds to buy good seeds, equipment or storage.

The land sits on a gold mine that can stimulate economic growth and alleviate poverty if properly utilized by planting both food and cash crops and engaging in livestock production on a commercial scale. If the land and water resources are properly utilized, cases of food scarcity can be eliminated.

Read more in [this](#) article.

Launch of Rwanda's first avocado sea freight reefer container

The government of Rwanda through the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), together with its key horticulture partners and the Kingdom of the Netherlands have flagged off the first reefer container shipment of Rwandan sustainably produced avocados to UAE.

The pilot shipment is the result of a collaborative effort between the Rwandan government and partners, which include IDH, Flying Swans, and avocado exporters, as part of the "Investing in Horticulture Development in Rwanda" project (HortInvest), which is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Rwanda to further develop Rwanda's horticulture sector.

In a market that is growing towards more sustainable and cost-effective transportation chains, sea freight is a critical component in making this opportunity a reality.

Read more about this [here](#).



Scaling out aeroponics technology for potato mini tuber production in Rwanda

This technology offers an opportunity to increase production, reduce the time it takes to grow mini tubers, and lower the cost of production. Additionally, technology limits the spread of diseases.

SDGP Potato Value Chain Project Rwanda has set up a research hub where new potato varieties are researched and they are multiplied in an aeroponic greenhouse. The greenhouse is provided by RVO (Netherlands Enterprise Agency) to Seed Potato Fund (SPF).

Read more about the aeroponics technology [here](#).



African ministers explore ways to scale up food production to feed the continent at COP27

The African ministers attending COP27 reiterated a commitment to work with development partners to unlock the continent's agriculture potential.

Minister Dr. Geraldine Mukeshimana of agriculture and animal resources in Rwanda said that a challenge is that Africa misses resources to scale up innovative processes to produce enough food.

She said Rwanda achieved some successes in food production because of its policy of involving farmers, citizens, the private sector and civil society in implementing agricultural policies.

Read the full article [here](#).



Latest Publications



The state of food and agriculture: leveraging automation in agriculture for transforming agrifood systems

The use of machinery and equipment in agricultural operations to improve their diagnosis, decision-making or performing, reducing the drudgery of agricultural work and/or improving the timeliness, and potentially the precision, of agricultural operations.

This report dives deep into a reality of agriculture: the sector is undergoing profound technological change at an accelerating pace.

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

Events & developments

Call for proposals for Seed Money Projects (SMPs)

With Seed Money Projects, SMEs from the agri-food and horticultural sector are supported in the start-up of innovative, international partnerships. The formation of a consortium is central to the projects.

Seed Money Projects serve as a start-up (or 'seed'), whereby a follow-up project is often formulated. A condition for a Seed Money Project is that a local problem owner (companies and/or governments) participates. The call is being organized by the Top Sector Agri & Food and the Top Sector Horticulture & Propagation Materials.

The call closes on December 16. More info [here](#).

Trade mission agro sector to Harvest Money Expo in Uganda

Are you active in agriculture? And are you curious about the possibilities of doing business in Uganda? Then join the trade mission to Uganda from February 7 to 13, 2023. This mission will focus on the Harvest Money Expo and company visits.

The trade mission is open to:

- Dutch agricultural companies already operating in Uganda;
- Dutch agricultural companies that want to do business in Uganda. Especially companies in horticulture, dairy, potato, poultry, aquaculture, animal feed and agricultural machinery;
- Dutch companies selling agricultural machinery that want to explore the Ugandan market.

You can find more information (in Dutch) [here](#).



The good food innovation fund, apply now!

The Good Food Innovation Fund seeks to support SMEs with business models that enhance availability, equitable access and affordability of good foods.

If you are an SME working in the 'Good Food' space in Rwanda or Burundi, this is your opportunity to play a role in the Agricultural and Nutritious Foods landscape in Africa.

The innovation call application deadline is Friday 2 December.

More information [here](#).

Country team visit Rwanda

Our Agriculture team joined the Netherlands Embassy Country Team week in Rwanda from 21 until 25 November. The goal was to discuss the future strategy of our Netherlands Embassy which is transitioning from a bilateral Aid to a Trade relationship with Rwanda. This was done by a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coming over from The Netherlands and the Embassy in Rwanda. We had several interesting field visits, round tables with entrepreneurs and organizations and some good discussions which enabled us to prioritize and sharpen our future efforts.

Some of the conclusions: our future involvement in agricultural policy development and implementation should remain strong. Bilateral ties are solid and Rwanda is open for this. The areas which seem most important: involvement of private sector in extension services and in education, Integrated Pest Management strategy implementation, raising productivity, climate adaptation and Soil health/biodiversity.

For smallholders, in order to transition towards commercial agrifood value chains, the approach should be based on their heterogeneity since no smallholder is the same. We will continue to focus on opportunities in niche markets in f.e. horticulture, seeds and alternative proteins. and continue to support partnerships of private sector with knowledge institutes like in the Service Training and Innovation Centers (STICs). Linking commercial value chains to the local private sector in the TRADE program (www.traide.org) will also be an ongoing activity.

Seven principles that make responsible use of farmed insects possible

Wageningen University and research (WUR) published an article where they present seven key principles to guide the responsible use of farmed insects as livestock feed.

As the insect farming sector is emerging, insects have the potential to contribute to the transition towards sustainable food systems, but for that to happen, we need to use them properly says Parodi Parodi who is one of the authors.

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



Event calendar

- 6 - 8 December : [World Circular Economy Forum](#) in Kigali
- 10 – 12 February : Harvest Money Expo



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