

Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

February 2023



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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

More than 600 farmers take to solar irrigation

At least 600 Ugandan farming communities, particularly in rural areas in different parts of the country, will benefit from an innovative solar-powered irrigation system designed by Nexus Green to reduce agricultural costs and curb the effects of climate change in Uganda.

Rikki Verma, the CEO of Nexus Green says that the irrigation systems are also expected to revolutionize and professionalize Uganda's agricultural sector. They do that by giving easier access to water through affordable and premium solar products.

The majority of Ugandans rely heavily on the agricultural sector for food and income. Solar-powered irrigation systems are therefore expected to reduce operational costs for both large and small farmers and improve crop yields in the long run, even during dry seasons, while simultaneously reducing carbon emissions and greenhouse gases.

Read more about this [here](#).





YALELO Fish to boost over 7000 youth with employment opportunities

In partnership with the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), YAYELO, a fisheries agency is targeting about 7,000 women and youth between the ages of 28-35 to give them employment opportunities.

Micheal Tumusiime, the marketing officer at YAYELO, revealed this news during the latest edition of the Harvest Money Expo.

The project will take three years and will benefit youths from Kampala, Wakiso and Jinja districts.

Read the full article [here](#).

Strengthening regional trade offers Uganda a sustainable path toward growth

The 20th edition of the Uganda Economic Update (UEU) has been published (see latest publications). The report foresees sustained recovery driving real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to 5.5% during fiscal year 2022/23 from 4.7% in fiscal year 2021/22

However, like many least developing countries, Uganda suffers from a small domestic market and distortions, which leads to misallocation of resources. As a result, international trade will play a critical role in solving some of the current challenges faced by the Ugandan economy and ultimately boosting economic growth and development.

For Uganda, greater integration into global value chains will be crucial to create jobs outside of subsistence agriculture and the informal economy. Sustained growth in trade will also increase consumer welfare by expanding options and lowering prices of consumer goods. Regional trade agreements can help Uganda diversify its range of markets and products, mitigating the risk of external shocks by lessening dependence on any single trading partner.

President Museveni commissions different new farm facilities worth Shs40b

The facilities are constructed at Bukalasa Agriculture College in Luweero District under the Uganda Skills Development Program.

The Minister for Agriculture, Mr Frank Tumwebaze, said the skilling program is the way to go for the farming sector.

The facilities include a feed mill, fruit processing plant, milk processing plant, livestock feed manufacturing plant, agro processing plant, modern library and an ICT block.

Read more about it [here](#).





FAO urges Uganda on public investment in agriculture

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) public investment on agriculture can help to spur economic recovery over Russia-Ukraine conflict and COVID-19 effects.

FAO points that Uganda majorly need investment in irrigation systems, and storage and revamp of rural roads to boost production and capital accumulation.

They further the government to look into priority crops and where they can be grown to harvest the most.

Read the full article [here](#).

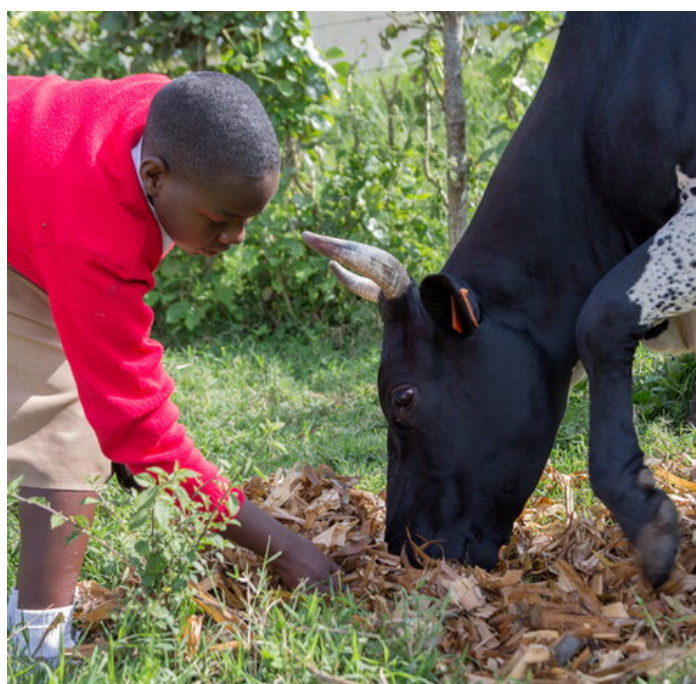
Tips on keeping milk and feeds safe from aflatoxin

In animals, the most frequently harmful mycotoxin is aflatoxin produced by *Aspergillus flavus* and *parasiticus* fungi, which occur in feeds.

After harvest, temperature, moisture content and insect activity are the main factors affecting mycotoxin contamination of feed grains and foods.

Control of mould growth and mycotoxin formation is dependent on on-farm and storage management of grains and animal feeds.

In [this](#) article you can read more on how to keep milk and feeds safe from aflatoxin.



Agri-News Rwanda

Rwanda's Annual Agricultural Export Revenues Reach Rwf860 Billion

This represents an increase of 45 per cent from \$543.1 million (about Rwf591.8 billion) in the same period of 2021.

Both export and re-export increments are related to the current economic recovery after the Covid 19 impact, where most economic activities resumed with more movement of people and goods in the region and abroad.

Transport of people to Europe and other destinations became more regular, which allowed trade with Europe and the rest of the world.

One of the other big drivers of the registered growth are good prices for agricultural products at the international markets. Tea, coffee, fruits and vegetable unit prices are showing positive trends, thus influencing the good export performance compared to the same period of 2021.

Read the full article [here](#).



Five green projects Rwanda can take to global carbon market

Green projects in renewable energy, agriculture, greening, transport, waste management and forestry among others have the potential to trade carbon credits on the global carbon market.

Herman Hakuzimana, the Environment and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Specialist at Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) tells the New Times that they are establishing a scheme and new rules that will govern the carbon market.

Creating a carbon market is among the resolutions from COP26 (26th climate summit) that took place in Scotland last year.

Read more in [this](#) article.

Latest Publications



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Global assessment of soil carbon in grasslands

From current stock estimates to sequestration potential

FAO ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND HEALTH / PAPER 187



Global assessment of soil carbon in grasslands

Improving management practices in grasslands— large areas covered with grass, especially used for animal grazing— can boost the capacity of soils as carbon sinks, and help countries reach their climate goals, according to a new report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The report also explores possible measures to improve Soil Organic Carbon stocks through case studies, such as the establishment of fodder gardens in eastern African Countries.

More than 40,000 small farmers in Kenya and Uganda have established gardens with calliandra trees as a practice to raise milk production and improve cow health.

Find the report [here](#).

Uganda Economic Update 20th Edition: Unlocking the Benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area and Regional Integration

Uganda's economy will need to grow rapidly, sustainably and broadly to achieve middle-income status, lift its population out of poverty and create enough jobs for one of the fastest growing populations in the world . To do this, the country must unlock its growth potential by allocating productive factors to their most efficient use.

You read more about the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement and the steps that Uganda needs to take to unlock these benefits in the [latest edition](#) of the Uganda Economic Update.

Events & developments



Trade Mission agriculture & Harvest Money Expo

For our agricultural office, the month of February was highlighted by the agricultural trade mission to Uganda and the subsequent Netherlands Village at the Harvest Money Expo.

For the trade mission 13 Dutch companies traveled to Uganda to explore or expand the possibilities of doing business there.

On the 8th and 9th of February companies in various sectors (dairy, potato, horticulture, organic and poultry) were visited by the participants. On the 10th, 11th and 12th of February they joined about 90 other participants in the Netherlands Village, where companies and entrepreneurs showcased their work and had plenty networking opportunities.

At the Netherlands Village inspiring masterclasses were given by the participants, free to join for everyone. Matchmaking took place and there were interesting discussions on topics like post-harvest management and market access.

All in all the mission and the Netherlands Village were a success. Meaningful connections were made for the future and it gave people a platform for their work.

We are already looking forward to next year!

Watch the video about the Netherlands Village [here](#).

Subsidy Soil Fertility Program

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published a call for grant proposals for the Soil Fertility program.

One is for Sahel/West Africa and one for East and Central Africa.

Organizations with experience in achieving sustainable management of soil fertility in a way that contributes to ecologically sustainable improvements in food productivity and to increased resilience of small-scale food producers and/or pastoralists in Sub Sahara Africa may apply for a grant until 31 March 2023.

More information [here](#).





Youth in Agroecology and Business and Learning Track Africa (YALTA): Lessons and Results

After three years, the YALTA initiative, a collaboration between Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP) and the IKEA Foundation, concluded its work last December.

An online publication offers an in depth illustration of the program's key lessons, outcomes and results. NFP and YALTA partner organizations are building on these lessons and results through several youth, agroecology and business initiatives.

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

Event: Linking & Learning for Partnerships Rwanda

This two-day knowledge exchange event, taking place on the 8th and 9th of March and joined by partners from embassy- and RVO-funded projects (such as Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships, SDGPs) offers excellent opportunities for networking, sharing knowledge and learning lessons about sustainable partnerships for food security and private sector development in East Africa.

The two-day program consists of workshops, presentations, networking activities and field trips. At the event, we aim to develop new project ideas with input from participants.



Seed Laws Toolbox - Call for proposals

For a second year, SeedNL invites organizations in collaboration with partners in target countries (including Rwanda and Uganda) to submit proposals for contributing to solving seed regulatory bottlenecks. The call is open to partners from the public sector, private sector, civil society and knowledge institutes.

The application deadline is 1 April 2023. Projects have to be carried out between May and October 2023. For more information, please visit [this](#) link.

Event calendar

- 8 – 9 March: Linking & Learning for Partnerships Rwanda
- 14 March: Launch Best Farmer Competition 2023 Uganda
- 11-15 September: [ESADA](#) conference Uganda



Two Seed Money Projects approved in Uganda

1. Pesticide-free & biocontrol-based chrysanthemum production along the international value chain

In the long term this research and development focused project wants to make sure that chrysanthemum growers have future access to the consumer market. An action plan will be developed to foster the production of pesticide-free and biocontrol-based chrysanthemum flowers. Find the project [here](#).

2. Nutrifoods

The aim of this project is to set up a large program about climate resilient crops, to replace gluten in bread products. This is to make the food system more climate resilient and to make food more nutritious and affordable, for Europe for the high-end markets for gluten-free and more nutritious products. This project will strengthen the position of the Netherlands as innovator in the bakery sector and its earning capacity. Find the project [here](#).



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