

Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

March 2023



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 Fin-Tech solution for smallholder farmers in Uganda

Uganda Development Bank (UDB) has made a partnership together with Ensibuuko, European Union, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to launch a Fintech solution named AgriConnect. This program makes access to digital financing for smallholder farmers in Uganda easier.

According to FAO, AgriConnect will enhance the agriculture sector and improve farmer livelihoods in Uganda; “Private investments that generate social or environmental benefits alongside returns can help fill investment gaps. The pilot solution we are launching is hoped to boost sustainable private investments in the agrifood sector and improve farmers’ access to digital credit,” said FAO’s Country Representative in Uganda, Dr Antonio Querido.

Read the full article [here](#).





National Information Technology Authority—Uganda (NITA-U) and researchers to prioritize ICT for agriculture

A working group will be formed to identify priorities in the agricultural sector that require ICT based solutions.

The deputy director general of the National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO), Dr. Yona Baguma said that there is a need for ICT in agriculture to achieve agricultural transformation in the country.

Through agro-industrialization, the government wants to increase the commercialization and competitiveness of agricultural production and agro-processing.

Read the full article [here](#).

Revitalizing adoption and use of solar technologies in agriculture sector

At an Agri Solar Stakeholder engagement workshop organized by Innovation Village in partnership with Youth Challenge International and Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, innovation experts urged players in the agricultural sector to adopt and accelerate the use of solar technologies across the value chain to address the reduction the sector's reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

While solar energy continues to be pitched as the alternative energy source for hard-to-reach communities, acceptance of these technologies by players in agriculture remains low. Therefore, there is need to increase interaction across all sector players, create platforms for knowledge sharing and networking, sector transparency, collaboration, and a better understanding that natural calamities need to be addressed through innovation and best tech practices.

Read more about the subject [here](#).

Best Farmers Awards 2023 edition launched

The Netherlands Embassy, in partnership with Vision Group, DFCU bank, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Koudijs B.V Nutrition have launched the 2023 edition of the Best Farmers Awards, under the theme "Farming as a Business."

The competition continues to give a powerful and compelling message about the future of farming in Uganda, and the confidence and capabilities of a new generation of emerging farmers.

In the coming months the jury will judge the farmers who join the competition and end of the year the prizes will be rewarded to the winners. Among other prizes, 10 winners will go to The Netherlands on an agricultural mission.





Kagame Appoints New Minister for Agriculture

On March 2, Ildephonse Musafiri was appointed as the new Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, replacing Gerardine Mukeshimana. Musafiri previously served as the Minister of State in the same ministry.

Previously, Musafiri was Executive Director of the Strategy and Policy Council (SPC) in the Office of the President. From April 2018, until his appointment as Minister of State on July 30, 2022, he served as Board Director of the National Bank of Rwanda (BNR).

Read more about the new minister [here](#).

Six Key Priorities the Ministry of Agriculture Eyes to Boost Productivity

During the National Dialogue Council, the new minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Ildephonse Musafiri, pointed out that the ministry will focus on six key actions meant to ensure increased agricultural output and food security for Rwandans, through de-risking the sector and enhancing its performance.

The six actions are irrigation and terracing, increase farm productivity, better post-harvest handling- market linkages for farmers, revamping farming and livestock, scaling up farmer support and credit and insurance facilities.

Overall, Musafiri said, the ministry will enhance its monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that investments in agriculture are yielding the intended results.

Read the full article [here](#).

Promoting the Rwandan coffee brand at the Amsterdam Coffee Festival

For the fourth time, Rwandan coffee producers promoted their brand at the festival to increase the status of their coffee brand and attract more buyers.

Ambassador of Rwanda to The Netherlands, Olivier Nduhungirehe, said that this is a good opportunity to attract more consumers to Rwandan coffee and increase awareness to its coffee brand.

According to the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), Rwanda exported 466 metric tons of coffee worth USD 2.3 million to the Netherlands in 2022. These figures show Rwanda's growing interest in the Dutch coffee market, and the potential for the country to increase its coffee exports to the Netherlands.

Read more about the festival [here](#).



Source: The New Times



Experts call for increased use of modern business models in agriculture

Experts call for increased adoption of modern business models in agriculture in Rwanda, to tackle the pressure that is on the sector as a result of the growing population and with that the growing demand for food.

They did that at the International Conference on Business Models in Agriculture (IBMA) 2023 at Kigali Convention Center from March 27 to 28.

The conference aims to bring together synergies to build sustainable agriculture to transform subsistence farming into well-organised businesses to increase the income and well-being of farmers in Africa.

Read the full article [here](#).

Events & developments

YALTA final publication

Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP) and its partner organisations PELUM Uganda, F&S Ethiopia, AAA Kenya and Three Mountains Academy Rwanda set up the youth in Agroecology and Business Learning Track Africa (YALTA) in the past 3 years, a movement of young agripreneurs ready to change their food systems by advancing agroecology. A wide range of scalable business models along the value chain has been developed, from inputs to production, to processing and advisory services.

In the [final publication](#), you can find the stories of the youth and experts that participated in the project and the lessons learned along the way, as well as the achievements.



Vibrant and inspiring agricultural PPP conference in Rwanda

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), the Netherlands Embassy in Rwanda and the TRAIDE Foundation celebrated many years existence of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) program called Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships (SDGP), by organizing an international Linking & Learning event in Kigali on 8 and 9 March.

The event attracted participants from many different countries. The goal of this knowledge exchange was to share knowledge and lessons learned on sustainable partnerships for food security and private sector development in East-Africa.

On day one there was a plenary part with speeches and presentations. After that the group was split in smaller groups where projects and themes were interactively discussed. On day two field visits to different partners took place.

Read more about this event [here](#).



The future of farming requires innovation

Event calendar

- 11-15 September: [ESADA](#) conference Uganda



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