

Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

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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 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 quarterly 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

Agri-News Uganda

New Netherlands Embassy Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) programs launched

Two weeks ago the Netherlands Embassy in Uganda launched three new projects from our FNS cluster. BRIGHT implemented by IFDC is a four year project which will reach more than 100.000 households in Kigezi, Elgon, and Rwenzori regions for improved food and nutrition security, sustainable land use, and increased incomes.

The second project being launched is CommonGround, a four year project that will build resilient farmer communities and watersheds in Kigezi, Elgon, and Rwenzori highland regions of Uganda. CommonGround is implemented by Wageningen Environment Research (WENR) – Wageningen University. Using Participatory Integrated Planning, the project will reach 150,000 households to promote resilient farming systems, watershed restoration, and improved marketing of agricultural produce.

Lastly the DHCL project provides increased access to and utilization of credit finance by smallholder farmers in the dairy and horticulture agrobusiness sectors. This 10 year project operational in all regions of Uganda, aims to enable 12.000 dairy and horticulture farmers to obtain credit finance through their SACCOs.



Return days Dutch Agricultural Counsellors

In the first week of November we had the “return days” in The Netherlands of the Dutch Agricultural (and Nature) Counsellors from all over the world. A network of 60 colleagues who together with their teams represent the Netherlands in more than 80 countries. The annual return days are designed to update us on the latest policy, political and organizational developments in the Netherlands. Without that framework, we could not effectively perform our work at the missions. In addition, the return week is an opportunity to exchange experiences with colleagues, inspire each other and see where we might be able to work together. Naturally the ministers of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), Piet Adema and Christianne van der Wal also attended.

The theme this year was 'From finding a new balance between **ecology** and **economy** to a transition of the **global food system**'. Topics covered included: what does reducing the Dutch footprint means for our trade, the protein transition, combating food waste, stimulating the food systems approach, resilient food systems against the backdrop of maintaining food security, climate, nature inclusive farming, biodiversity and water, and the role of innovation therein, the implementation of the deforestation regulation and the vision on Food from the Sea.

During working visits to the organic dairy farm “Natuurlijk genoeg” in the city of Driehuizen, we reflected on, among other things, animal husbandry, possibilities of vaccination against Avian Influenza and circular agriculture. In Anna Pauwlon we visited Hoeve Lotmeer, the first participating farm in the network of demo farms for the Delta Plan Agrarian Water Management. Here we discussed soil policy and climate adaptation.

A fixed part of the return week is the networking event. Despite the stormy weather, it was nice to speak to many parties from our network.

All in all an inspiring week with a lot of food for thought for future direction of our efforts.



Regional conference Agricultural Advisors

Last week our colleagues from Kampala Stephen Bayite-Kasule and from Kigali Innocent Matabishi were participating in the Sub-Saharan Netherlands Agricultural Advisors conference (LAN). The discussions in Nairobi aimed to see how to do more with less and achieve high impact. The LAN combines support to both the private sector and smallholders farmers using the Dutch private sector as an agent of innovation and optimal resource use.



Best farmer competition back in business

The Best Farmer competition has gained traction again. This great tradition was hit by covid for a while but the winners of the years during covid time finally travelled to the Netherlands this year. One group in May and one group in October. Last year the award ceremony also made its comeback again with a competition in which the Winner of the Winners (of previous years) was selected. In December 2023 the next award ceremony is planned in which the winners of the 2023 competition will be announced. The winners will travel to the Netherlands in 2024. The Netherlands stays committed to this tradition,

Click [here](#) for more info.

Call to action! Seed Money Projects

As of last week, SME's can submit an application for the Seed Money Projects [SMP info \(Dutch\)](#) until Friday December 15, 2023.

The Seed Money Projects supports SME's in the Agri & Food and Horticulture & Starting Materials sectors in setting up innovative, international partnerships. The main objective is international cooperation on a particular challenge in the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda (KIA) 'Landbouw, Water, Voedsel'. If the application is accepted, there will be a study into the feasibility of international cooperation and a new or improved consortium.

- For more information about this year's application, click [here](#).

- For more information on previous projects, click [here](#).

Or contact Gert Stiekema from Top sector Horticulture and Starting Materials: gertstiekema@topsectortu.nl

Call for concept notes

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kampala (EKN) intends to develop and finance a program for the Food Security portfolio of EKN, aiming at inclusive development of farming systems in several districts in Busoga and Lango regions. EKN therefore invites organizations interested to implement such a program, to submit a concept note.

Based on the concept notes, a maximum of three organizations will be selected to submit a full proposal. Please find below the context and main features of the envisaged program. Key criteria that will be used in the selection process are described in this paper. Maximum budget for the program is total 30 million euro for 5 years.

Read the article [here](#).



The Day of the Entrepreneur

It was a beautiful inspiring event, a new tradition is born. The Embassy of the Netherlands in Uganda celebrated entrepreneurship during the 'Day of the Entrepreneur'. The Netherlands Trade and Investment Platform (NUTIP) and our ambassador Karin Boven handed over the Lifetime Achievement & Best Newcomer awards. "Your entrepreneurial spirit inspires progress & change!" Congratulations to the two winners, one in horticulture: Wagagai Ltd and Easy Housing.



Rwanda Government and European Union conclude new Agriculture Cooperation “Transformational climate-smart and inclusive Agriculture in Rwanda”

The overall objective of this programme worth Euros 69 million (approximately Rwf 72.5 billion) is to consolidate the sustainable agricultural transformation in Rwanda, by (i) fostering Rwanda’s agricultural transition to socially and environmentally inclusive food systems and (ii) ensuring Rwanda’s environmental and climate sustainability. The project will contribute to Rwanda’s Nationally Determined Contributions objective on climate adaptation. The programme also encompasses a Team Europe Initiative on ‘Sustainable and inclusive agricultural transformation’, built around the construction and development of the Kigali Wholesale market and related markets in secondary cities, as central components of highly productive and inclusive value chains.

Read the article [here](#).



Rwanda Government – World Bank sign agreement to support the transformation of the agriculture sector

The Government of Rwanda and the World Bank Group today signed USD100 million (approximately Rwf 86.5 billion) credit agreement to improve the capacity of selected national public agricultural institutions to increase the enabling of commercialization of agriculture value chains in Rwanda. The Transformation of Agriculture Sector Program 4, a phase 2 of the Program for Results (PforR2), will support the Government of Rwanda to improve the implementation of its Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation (PSTA4) by building a stronger role for private sector engagement in the agriculture sector (including farmer organizations), by having the Government shift from being a market actor to a market enabler.

Read the article [here](#).



First avocado container exported from Rwanda arrived in The Netherlands

Rwandan producer SOUK Farms exported its first container to Europe this week, a milestone celebrated at an event in Kigali with the participation of the Kingdom of Netherlands Ambassador to Rwanda as guest of honor.

Seun Rasheed, CEO of SOUK Farms, told Freshplaza, "We are extremely happy to have achieved this breakthrough. This inaugural shipment is the culmination of many years of work, and just the beginning of a promising journey. The steady growth of avocado exports from Rwanda over the past five years reflects our country's commitment to planting over a million trees a year, focusing on the Hass and Fuerte varieties."

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

One Acre Fund launches and a new seed centre in Rwanda

One Acre Fund Rwanda in partnership with Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture (RICA) launched a new seed center that will improve the seed production sector, agriculture production, and food security. The seed centre is funded by Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The centre is designed to improve farmer resilience and farm productivity and will partner with seed companies, providing them with the services they need to accelerate their growth and bring more high-quality, improved seeds to over one million Rwandan farmers in the next five years.

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



PM Ngirente woos investors for Gabiro Agri-business Hub

Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente has appealed to investors' interest in Rwanda's Gabiro Agribusiness Hub Project (GAHP) phase II to accelerate the country's efforts in ensuring food security.

He made the remarks, on November 9, during a boardroom session to showcase investment opportunities in Rwanda, on the margin of the ongoing Africa Investment Forum 2023, a major continental marketplace for investments, taking place in Marrakech, Morocco.

The three-day forum held under the theme: "Unlocking Africa's Value Chains", aims at stirring investors' interest in bankable deals in sectors where Africa holds a comparative advantage.

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

European Investment Bank and Bank of Kigali outline EUR 100 million plan to enable farmers adapt to climate change

Farmers and agricultural businesses across Rwanda are set to be able to better withstand the economic, social and business impacts of climate change under a new EUR 100 million climate finance initiative. The scheme will provide a substantial boost to smallholders, businesses, and enterprises dependent on climate-vulnerable agriculture across Rwanda.

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

New potato types undergo testing to boost yields

Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) is currently conducting trials on new potato varieties in Eastern Province in order to boost the country's potato production. The new varieties being tested have demonstrated high adaptability in hot regions and are suitable for irrigated land. The new initiative aligns with the goal of expanding cultivated land as the country aims to reach 63,328 ha of Irish potato for the 2024 Season A

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



Latest Publications

Tax Analysis Uganda

One of the core mandates of the Netherlands Embassy Kampala is the facilitation of bilateral business for Dutch companies. As a country with a strong focus on Agriculture, Uganda has always been attractive for Dutch based agriculture companies. Indeed, the agriculture sector is one of those sectors that has received the most investment from Dutch businesses. Many Dutch firms appreciate that investing in the Ugandan market can offer them enormous opportunities for diversification and high returns. However, they are also keen to understand the available tax incentives and the overall conduciveness of the country's tax regime for foreign direct investments.

One of the duties of EKN therefore is to guide these enterprises to ensure that they understand the tax implications of their operations, familiarize themselves with the incentive regime, appreciate their compliance and reporting obligations and optimize their tax situation. Unfortunately, Uganda, just like many developing countries is complex, always evolving and difficult to navigate. To this end, the LNV regional office, executed an agricultural tax assessment for Uganda. The report describes the existing agriculture tax regime in Uganda, interprets the relevant tax statutes and guides companies on what to do.

We are excited to share this report with the wider Netherlands private sector, that are transacting or wish to transact with and in Uganda. Besides enhancing the Embassy's Agro-diplomacy services, we are confident that Dutch companies now have a reference point for routine tax assessment and processing. This is a first step in our quest to build a comprehensive and annually updated knowledge base on Agriculture taxation in Uganda and the EAC in general.

Link to the ['Agricultural Tax Assessment Report 2023'](#).



Events & developments

Harvest Money Expo & Trade Mission Uganda

'HME'

Want to explore the opportunities in the agro-food area in Uganda?

Come along with the trade mission on February 19 - 25, 2024. You can attend the largest agricultural fair in East Africa, the "Harvest Money Expo", as an exhibitor in the Netherlands Pavilion and performer of a masterclass, including a lot of media attention. We are also working on putting together a great program including tailor-made company visits and sessions on political economy, taxes and financing.

We place extra emphasis on the themes of climate smart and digital solutions in sectors such as poultry, dairy, potatoes, fish farming and horticulture. However, all companies that can add value in Uganda are very welcome and there are countless opportunities for this.

Click [here](#) for more information (Dutch).



Viv Africa 2024

Building on the success of the previous editions, Poultry Africa is now transitioning the 4th edition of the VIV Africa in 2024 on October 2 - 3. As it now offers a comprehensive showcase that covers the entire spectrum of animal protein production. With a focus on animal production and especially the production of poultry layers and poultry broilers, the event anticipates over 130 exhibitors demonstrating cutting-edge technologies and services.

Click [here](#) for more information about the event.

Rwanda to host next Africa agricultural tech conference

Rwanda will host the second edition of African Conference on Agricultural Technologies (ACAT) in its capital Kigali, in May 2025, according to the event organizers.

This was announced on November 3, as part of the communique issued at the closure the first ACAT conference held in Nairobi, Kenya.

It is organized by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) with the support from partners.

Click [here](#) for more information.



For address changes or (un)subscribing please send an email to KAM-LNV@minbuza.nl