

# Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

## September 2021



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.

In this newsletter you will also learn more about the visit of Frank and Heidi to Innocent in Rwanda.

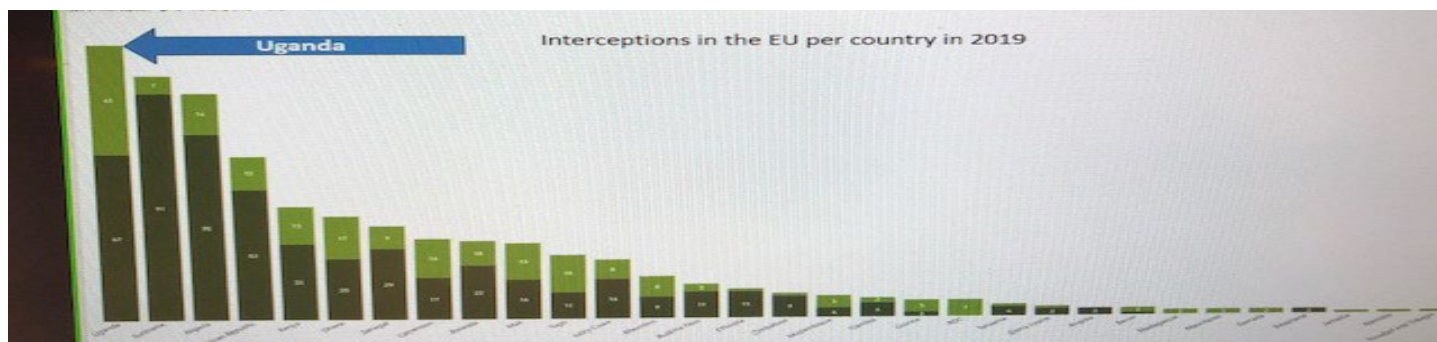
*Kind regards,  
Frank Buizer, Agricultural counsellor  
Innocent Matabishi, Agribusiness Policy Officer  
Heidi Oranje, Policy Support Officer*

## Agri-News Uganda

### Dialogue between government, Ugandan private sector, and the European Union

The Ugandan Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) introduced the idea of launching a program together with EU named "Farming for Exports" through which farmers are sensitized on how to produce quality products that meet the European Union (EU) standards, which is currently not going well (see slide on picture). This was revealed by the Agriculture Minister, Mr Frank Tumwebaze, at the end of a "dialogue" between government, Ugandan private sector, and the European Union (EU) which was aimed at boosting Uganda's agriculture exports to Europe.

The event was held at the ministry offices in Entebbe on Wednesday 22nd September and zoomed into bottlenecks for exports to EU that need to be addressed, besides the sensitization of farmers, like: lack of coordination within government bodies, the low number of inspectors that check produce, lack of traceability, infrastructure and logistics and enforcement of regulation. Minister Tumwebaze summoned government institutions to meet every month in order to practically improve coordination needed for exports upgrade, and the Private Sector Federation (PSF) should also meet more regularly to address bottlenecks and inform government on needed improvements.



## Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) embraces farm clinics

NARO disseminates agricultural technologies and innovations through research extension farmer linkages and channels. Amidst Covid-19 in a more virtual way.

“Seeds of Gold Farm clinics” are examples of the ways NARO is using to address the knowledge gaps in order to ensure that people use knowledge based farming practices that should lead to increased productivity

Farm clinics are an agricultural initiative to bring together farmers, government officials and experts to interact, learn from each other and exchange ideas. They are organized in different regions and are more available online now.

Do you have ideas about capacity building initiatives in Uganda or Rwanda? Let us know!

Read the full article on Daily Monitor via this [link](#) report



## Experts call for Ugandan youths to grasp opportunities in agriculture to confront pandemic

A recently published report from World Bank showed that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many workers in Uganda lost their jobs because of the pandemic that forced businesses to close, which has pushed up the unemployment rate.

“Agriculture is an important sector and there is a lot of money to be made. I believe that the Ugandan youths can get a lot of opportunities in agriculture in different commodities, value chains for them to realize their dreams” says Antonio Querido, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) country representative.

Querido said the youths need to consider agriculture as a business that can improve their livelihood.

The agricultural team also works with different projects working with youth in agriculture.

Read the full article on Independent via this [link](#).

## Agri-News Rwanda

### Annual retreat HortInvest 2021

From the 14<sup>th</sup> until the 16<sup>th</sup> of September the annual HortInvest Retreat took place in Rwanda. Our colleague Innocent Matabishi participated in this retreat.

The HortInvest project, which is implemented by SNV, Agriterra, Holland Greentech, IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative and CDI Wageningen with funding from the Netherlands Embassy in Kigali, aims to increase farmers' incomes, grow the relative contribution of the horticultural sector to the regional economy in North West Rwanda, and improve the food and nutrition security of the targeted households.

Several companies were visited during the retreat. Examples are EZA NEZA (agricultural technological innovation), COOPEDUSH (producing and processing various fruits) and Kigali Farms (addresses malnutrition in smallholder communities through business means). They are supported by HortInvest and were, amongst other things, able to expand productions and train employees.





### Uganda based agricultural team visits Rwanda.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August Frank Buizer and Heidi Oranje traveled from Kampala to Kigali, to visit colleague Innocent Matabishi

Frank and Heidi were introduced to colleagues of the Dutch Embassy in Kigali, and met with partners like EUCord, Resilience, Delphy, SNV, NAEB, RICA, RDB and Permanent Secretary Jean Claude Musabyimana of the Ministry of Agriculture in Rwanda. We discussed, among other things, the status of different projects and opportunities for engagement of our agricultural team for the future.

A field visit was organized to the Fish Farm Project (read more about that [here](#) and under 'developments') in North-East Rwanda.

The trip was fruitful, and we will update you about developments through this newsletter, Agroberichten buitenland and our Social Media channels.

### Aqua-Spark soon launches Africa fund

This fund is meant to set the next iteration of sustainable aquaculture in sub-Saharan Africa.

Substantial investment is required in tilapia farming to both realize its potential and, at the same time, ensure it plays a role in meeting the foreseen surge in demand for protein in sub-Saharan Africa.

Aqua-Spark believes that in the short term around \$300m needs to be invested through equity, which will only cover the current capital requirements of the top 25 most-needed investments in their pipeline for aquaculture in sub-Saharan Africa. A significant amount of this total involves tilapia production and its upstream and downstream value chain.

Read the whole article [here](#).



## Latest Publications

### Introduction to Tilapia in Sub-Saharan Africa by Aqua Spark

In this report Aqua-Spark provides an overview of the current geography of tilapia production, the producers involved, and the various segments of the supply chain (including feed and feed ingredients, genetics and hatcheries, health, aquatech, marketing and distribution), and an overview of the investment opportunities and the existing investment landscape.

Read the whole report [here](#).

### Doing business in Rwanda - from aid to trade

Rwanda is moving through a phase of transition. The country seeks to develop equitable relationships with other countries moving from aid to trade.

Via [this link](#) you will find relevant reports, checklists and factsheets on doing business and investing in Rwanda.



## Events & developments

### Organic Academy Uganda

The Organic Academy is an initiative of Business Lab Uganda, Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands Embassy in Uganda, Amfri Farms, Enimiro and Ecocert.

The idea behind the organic academy is to set up an organic agriculture science facility, where practice, theory, learning and development come together physically in the heart of Uganda.

The Organic Academy wants to offer a pathway for smallholder farmers to participate in organic certification or an organic market place. With local, practical and tested solutions in organic systems challenges in Uganda and a platform to disseminate this information.

We had brainstorm sessions with all the partners about this subject and are now making an action plan on how to set up this academy.



### Black soldier fly oil as a feed component in the Ugandan feed industry

Uganda's population is growing fast and so is their purchasing power. This means more people are able to afford meat, which automatically contributes to the growth of the feed industry.

The company Marula (Proteen) wants to take this opportunity by introducing their own product: black soldier fly oil. They feed urban organic-waste to Black Soldier Fly larvae. After a short rearing period these larvae can be harvested, dried and processed into high-quality protein feed for livestock production.

The agricultural team in Uganda will visit the company in October. We are excited to learn more about using insect protein in animal feed. Read about our visit in the next newsletter!

### Aquaculture Impact Cluster Rwanda

In the newsletter of last month we wrote that this project is making more and more progress, with as example the tilapia for the project arriving in Rwanda at the end of June this year.

In the beginning of September our agricultural team visited the construction site of a demonstration fish farm that is being built next to Akagera National Park in Rwanda.

This projects aims to:

1. Establish a commercially viable demo farm in East Rwanda, producing fish locally for the local market.
2. Demonstrate best practices: introduce, demonstrate and train best farming practices within the country.
3. Transfer expertise and capacity building: build a team of highly trained staff who are able to run the farm from scratch and transfer knowledge and skills to other fish farmers.
4. Develop the value chain: develop a local value chain for locally produced fish in Rwanda and position Dutch technology and expertise.

Do you want to read more about this project and our visit? Read the article we wrote about it [here](#) on Agroberichtenbuitenland.

### Upcoming Events:

- 1-5<sup>th</sup> October: **World Food Forum**. Join young people from across the world from 1 - 5 October to drive awareness and mobilize resources in support of agri-food systems transformation. Register [here](#).
- 7<sup>th</sup> October: the Project Implementation Team of the Sustainable Development Goals Project 'innovating the potato value chain in Uganda' will have a physical meeting in Kabale. The agricultural team in Uganda will attend this meeting.
- 16<sup>th</sup> October: **World Food Day**. Every year, a large number of events – from marathons and hunger marches, to exhibitions, cultural performances, contests and concerts – are organised in around 150 countries across the world to celebrate World Food Day.
- 18-20<sup>th</sup> October: **Symposium on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and Family Farming**. Register [here](#).



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