

Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

July 2022



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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 investment in combination of foreign trade and development cooperation by the government of The Netherlands

The government encourages entrepreneurs to do business in developing countries more often. The government also wants to introduce more focus in connecting Dutch businesses to development resources. That will benefit both the countries concerned and the Netherlands

This is one of the main new themes of Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Liesje Schreinemacher's policy document Doing what the Netherlands is good at, which was approved by the cabinet on Friday.

The document outlines policy for the years ahead.

Read more about this [here](#).

Food insecurity worsens in the greater Horn of Africa, WHO intensifies response to looming health crisis

The food insecurity in the region is caused by different factors, like conflict, extreme weather events – including the worst drought in 40 years – induced by climate change, rising international food and fuel prices and the impact of the pandemic.

In Uganda, the problem is concentrated in the north-eastern region of the country.

WHO's emergency response is focused on ensuring affected populations can access essential health services, treating sick children with severe malnutrition, and preventing, detecting and responding to infectious disease outbreaks.

Read the full article [here](#).



Farmers in Rwanda upbeat about new potato variety

Potato farmers have welcomed the government's ongoing trials on the use of agricultural biotechnology in producing a new Irish potato variety resistant to the devastating late blight disease. If successful, farmers can grow the new potato variety without necessarily using agro-chemicals.

Late blight, a potentially devastating disease affecting potatoes and tomatoes, infecting leaves, stems, potato tubers and tomato fruits, spreads quickly in fields and can result in total crop failure if untreated.

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



How agricultural biotechnology could boost food security

Cassava and (Irish) potato are among major staple food crops in Rwanda, with production estimated at over 1.3 million tonnes and 938 thousand tonnes respectively in 2021, according to data 2021 seasonal agricultural survey 2021 annual report by the National Institute of Statics of Rwanda.

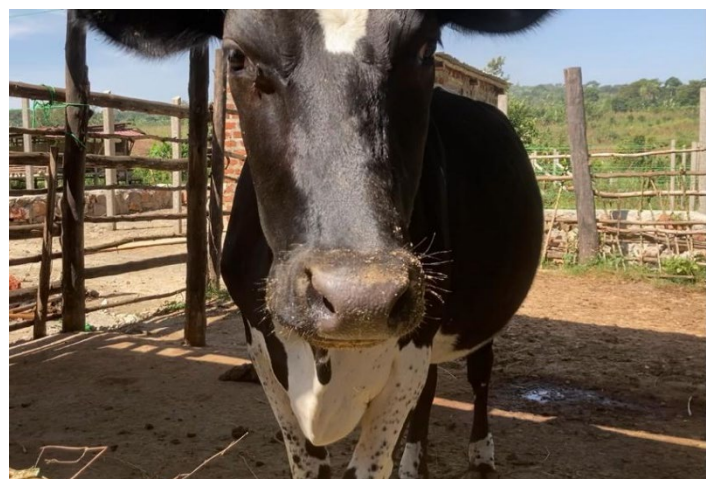
In 2019, Rwanda Agricultural Board announced that it was going to test a GM (Irish) potato variety, called Victoria, believed to be resistant to late blight, a destructive potato disease locally known as 'Imvura'. The variety was developed by the International Potato Centre (CIP) through inserting into the ordinary potato, the disease-resistant trait that scientists took from a wild potato.

Read more via [this](#) link.

Gako meat project takes shape as Rwanda eyes foreign market

The Gako meat project has started producing meat and supplying to the local market, and works to bring the initiative to full capacity are underway, its managers have said. It is Rwanda's flagship project to increase quality meat production for local and export markets, according to its developers.

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





From aid to Trade: Rwanda and The Netherlands ready for a new chapter

The Netherlands' financial aid to Rwanda ends this year. Both countries are shifting to a new chapter in their cooperation. The two countries move to boost trade to support Rwanda realize its ambition of becoming self-reliant.

Rwandan businesses are already tapping into the Dutch market, and now there is hope for special incentives that traders and economists say would encourage exporters to increase their exports.

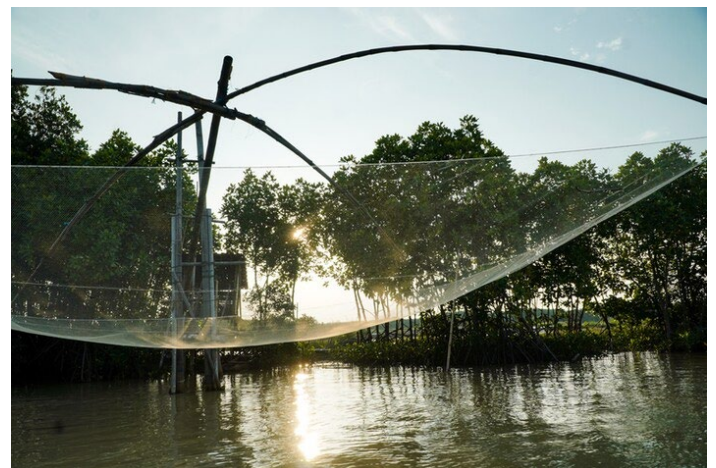
Read the full article [here](#).

Latest Publications

Economic efficiency and equity analysis of Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) and resilience enhancement interventions in Uganda

With climate change, the impact of disasters resulting from natural hazards pose an increasing threat to human health and safety, livelihoods, and economies are expected to worsen.

In [this](#) analysis ecosystem based disaster risk reduction and community resilience are analyzed.



Policy document Strategy for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

The document outlines policy for the years ahead. 'A lot of what we're already doing works very well,' says Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Liesje Schreinemacher.

You find the document (in Dutch) [here](#).



Events & developments

Event calendar

- 5 – 9 September [Africa Green Revolution Forum Summit](#)
- 5th & 6th of October: [Poultry Africa](#) 2022, Kigali Rwanda
- 7- 18 November: [UN Climate Change Conference](#), Egypt



Agriculture Show Rwanda

After two years without the agriculture show being organized, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the 15th edition of 2022 came to underline the fact that the agriculture sector has to set ways of being more resilient to shocks than ever.

To achieve this, technology will play a paramount role, thus, the theme of the 2022 agriculture show: “Building Resilience in Agriculture through Modern Technologies”.

Under Team-Europe, Member States were brought together in the European Village, where the Netherlands Pavilion was set beside the European Union Delegation, France and Belgium. Companies and Projects exhibited their technologies and other innovations; in the Netherlands Pavilion, Agriculture Officials and diversified visitors were attracted by the small scale mechanization as exhibited by Go & Grow, and the usual small scale irrigation by Hollande Green Tech. Good achievements of HortInvest and SDGP Potato and Maize VCs were also exposed.

We look back on a successful edition of the show.



Seed Laws Toolbox SeedNL - Call for Proposals

SeedNL has launched the Seed Laws Toolbox, a facility for small grants to address seed regulatory bottlenecks.

SeedNL invites partnerships of Dutch/international organizations in collaboration with partners in focus countries (Uganda & Rwanda among others) 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 September 2022.

Find more information [here](#).



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