

Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

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The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agricultural Department

[@] kam-Inv@minbuza.nl
[tw] @NLagriUganda
[www] <https://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/landeninformatie/uganda>
<https://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/landeninformatie/rwanda>

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



Delegation of Netherlands Embassy meets with Hon. Frank Tumwebaze

A Netherlands Embassy delegation (Ambassador, Dep. Ambassador, Agricultural Counselor and Food Security team) met with the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) Hon. Frank Tumwebaze and his team on Monday 25th of April. They had a lively discussion on the long term & strong cooperation in agriculture between Uganda and The Netherlands and explored future areas of cooperation like dairy, poultry and physo-sanitary issues.

The Minister expressed the ambition to work closer together with the donor community and better map what is going on in order to enable requesting donors to focus more on their key fields of expertise. The Embassy will further liaise with MAAIF to concretize this ambition of more coordination of the agricultural sector.

FAO launches new phase of agriculture policy initiative

The initiative has an 11 million dollar grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and covers eight African countries, including Uganda and Rwanda.

Among its key goals are identifying priority areas for scaling up investment, achieving more transparent markets and trade, inclusive rural transformation and more nutritious agrifood systems.

Read more about this [here](#).

Cutbacks of up to 335 billion UGX to the agro-industrialisation programme budget

Officials of the Ugandan ministry of Finance confirmed cutbacks in this agro-industrialisation budget, and talked about a new way to disperse the budget that focuses on redistribute resources.

In particular, government funding to the Ministry of Agriculture alone has also declined from 150.4 billion UGX in 2021/2022 to 74.9 billion UGX in 2022/2023 financial year.

The cutbacks will hit pockets of small holder farmers and affect the current war against crop and animal diseases such as the African armyworms, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), cattle ticks and tick-borne diseases (TTBDs)

Hon. Minister Frank Tuwembaze, Minister of Agriculture, animal industry & fisheries, yesterday appealed to the Finance ministry to reverse the cuts.

“We have justified to the Ministry of Finance, the dangerous implications those cuts have on the success of parish development model and they have accepted our justification. I hope they will reverse the cuts that could have been done in error,” Hon. Tumwebaze said.

Read the full article [here](#).

First Impact Tour of PoultryTech to Uganda

The poultry sector in Uganda is currently undergoing a transformation that provides interesting opportunities for private sector development.

PoultryTechUganda was launched in December 2021, and is a public-private partnership of Dutch and Ugandan companies that jointly aim to develop the Ugandan poultry value chain and make the local sector more resilient to external shocks.

In the last week of April, the Dutch consortium members traveled to Uganda for the first Impact Tour within the cluster. During the week the cluster members visited and met with relevant poultry stakeholders, and on the 28th of April the physical kick-off of the cluster took place (read more about that later in this newsletter).



Agri-News Rwanda

Rwanda Agriculture sector secures \$300 million for irrigation, insurance

Rwanda is set to commence the rollout and implementation of rehabilitation of irrigation systems on over 17,600 ha, as well as land husbandry development on about 11,000 ha following approval of a \$300 million financing facility for the purpose via the World Bank.

The initiative dubbed Commercialization and De-Risking for Agricultural Transformation Project (CDAT) will support the government to provide services and create an enabling environment for the private sector throughout the agricultural value chain.

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

Financial Institutions renew their commitment to agricultural financing schemes

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), through its technical assistance to SAIP (Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Food Security Project), convened a roundtable discussion with members of financial institutions and insurance companies in Rwanda.

The discussion was about charting a way forward to building a strong synergy that spurs, fosters, and improves the agricultural financing scheme for small-scale and rural agribusinesses.

Read the full article [here](#).



Rwandan companies and Agricultural Advisor attend Fruit Logistica in Germany

From 28 March to 9 April, organized by IDH, a group of seven Rwandan Exporters visited the Netherlands and Germany, to attend a set of Workshops for their improvement in export related activities, and to visit the Fruit Logistica International Exhibition of Berlin.

The workshops in the Netherlands included trainings on cost-price calculations, customer relations and loyalty, farming improvement, export procedures; quality control and requirements and overview of doing business in EU market and specialism. A number of company visits was done to supermarkets, farms, input suppliers and other value chain actors, like World Berry, Flying Swans, and others.

The participation in Fruit Logistica in Berlin allowed the Exporters to interact with the value chain actors from all over the world but also a chance to connect with buyers from various countries. The Delegation was also including the Agricultural Advisor at the Netherlands Embassy in Kigali and the Project Manager of HortInvest, Embassy funded project, the overall supporter of the Horticulture Sector.

Artificial insemination centre to raise cattle production

Rwanda is setting up a national artificial insemination (AI) centre expected to help increase the country's cattle production in terms of milk and beef yields. It will be a recognized center at International level, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources. The Ministry indicated it is expected that its first phase will be completed by the end of this year (2022) at a cost of Rwf1.5 billion.

For more details please visit [this](#) link

Latest Publications

Aqua-Spark's Aqua Insights Report: The Transformative Power of Digital Aquatech

This Report provides an overview of the digital aquatech investment landscape, a series of inspiring interviews with CEOs of Aqua-Spark's digital aquatech portfolio companies, and a set of in-depth chapters on different segments of digital aquaculture technology.

You'll find an overview of some of the established and up-and-coming enterprises and startups that contribute to the digital transformation of aquaculture.

Find the report [here](#).

Assessment of agricultural plastics and their sustainability: A call for action

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations), presents this report, that presents the results of a study on agricultural plastic products used globally in a range of different value chains. The study assessed the types and quantities of plastic products, their benefits and trade-offs.

The authors hope that the study will provide an impetus for discussion about the use of agricultural plastics, their benefits and trade-offs, and ultimately stimulate action to reduce their potential for harm to human health and the environment.

Find the report [here](#).

Events & developments

Dairy Sustainability Assessment tool

On the 2nd of December 2021 NFP (Netherlands Food Partnership) held a webinar on the Dairy Sustainability Assessment tool. This tool has three steps:

1. Identify the main threats to sustainability
2. Score the current performance
3. Generate further discussion on pathways and actions towards increasing sustainability

A test run with this tool has been done in Uganda, and during the webinar on the 2nd of December the results were presented.

The report and recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).



Plans to extend the activities of the FeedTechKenya impact cluster on a regional scale

In Kenya, the FeedTech impact cluster on animal feed tries to bridge the gap between feed demand and supply. In addition, it aims to increase the quality of locally available feed.

In neighboring countries the same gap is noticeable, and the demand for quality locally available animal feed is getting bigger and bigger. That's why agricultural departments in Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania are now making plans to extend the FeedTechKenya to these countries, to develop the feed sector and boost production.

We will keep you updated about the developments.

Physical kick-off PoultryTechUganda

On the 28th of April, consortium members and stake holders in the Ugandan poultry sector came together for the physical kick-off networking event of PoultryTechUganda.

Ambassador of The Netherlands in Uganda Karin Boven opened the event. After that agricultural counsellor Frank Buizer spoke about the poultry sector in Uganda, and the importance of this impact cluster. He also invited all the stakeholders to be involved, and to support each other in the sector.

Cluster Coordinator Larive gave a presentation about the goals of the cluster, like improving overall productivity, sustainability and resilience in the Ugandan poultry value chain.

The following innovative Dutch and Ugandan companies are part of PoultryTechUganda, each offering complementary solutions and covering essential steps of the poultry value chain: Aeres Training Centre International, Asigma Capital Advisory Services, Asiima Agri Concern, Champrisa International, Hendrix Genetics, KukuChic, Nutreco, Royal Pas Reform, Ottevanger Milling Engineers.



Event calendar

- 12th of May: NFP (Netherlands Food Partnership) [Webinar series # 5](#) | Tropical commodities to boost food systems transformation
- 15th of May: YEP (Young Experts Programme) deadline [application](#) of project proposals
- 19th of May: [Webinar](#): 'Aquaculture Roadmap Uganda'. By Larive
- 31st of May – 2nd of June: [VIV Europe](#), from feed to food
- 5th & 6th of October: [Poultry Africa](#) 2022, Kigali Rwanda



Call for proposals for: Inclusive development of (potato-based) farming systems in the Ugandan Highlands in Kigezi, Mbale and Fort Portal Regions

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kampala (EKN) intends to develop and finance a project for the Food Security portfolio of EKN, aiming at inclusive development of farming systems in 3 regions in Uganda. EKN therefore invites organizations interested to implement such a project, to submit a project proposal for this project.

For more information, please visit [this](#) link.



**Netherlands
Agricultural
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