

# Agri-Newsletter Uganda & Rwanda

## August 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

### Agriculture Business Initiative rolls out Green Challenge Fund of 7.5 Billion UGX

The fund will be used to support partnerships through green agribusiness investments for Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Biodiversity Conservation to further contribute to economic growth, job creation and improved incomes.

The Green Challenge Fund is open to all actors that make contributions to Agriculture Business Initiative-supported priority value chains and have innovative and green ideas, private sector agribusinesses, NGOs, scientists, researchers, and start-ups. It will run for 12 – 18 months depending on the nature of the project.

Stakeholders interested can apply for the fund through [this link](#).

### Restore Africa program has launched in Uganda

The Global EverGreening Alliance's Restore Africa Programme aims to restore 1.9 million hectares of land and directly support 1.5 million smallholder farming families, across six African countries – Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

In Uganda, the aim of the program is to enable a record 350,000 farming households to be more climate resilient. Restore Africa will work in 36 districts to improve degraded farms in Southwestern Uganda, Karamoja and Mount Elgon regions.

With climate change, land is more infertile. That leads to reduced capacity of the land bringing about environmental hazards, high food prices, increased droughts, rising oceans and lakes and loss of biodiversity.

By planting trees, the target is to raise the forest cover in Uganda from 13% – 15% by the year 2026.

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



## Business Accelerator Program (BAP) launched by Agribusiness Development Centre (ADC)

The program, powered by dfcu limited and Rabo foundation, is for Women owned agribusinesses, operating in and around Kampala, in various value chains except tobacco, in the following categories: Agro Marketing, Processing, Production; Agro Forestry; Agro Tourism and Agri- support services.

BAP will enable 350 agribusinesses (40% women-led) to become self-sufficient & create at least 350 new jobs and link at least 50% of these agribusinesses to financing and markets.

ADC intends to attract Agribusinesses getting out of ideation phase to offer a business acceleration opportunity, through a journey of agreed milestones, which should enable these enterprises to attract markets and funding for growth and sustainability of their operations.

Read the full article [here](#).



## Agri-News Rwanda

### Soil erosion- posing a threat on food security

The State of Soil Erosion Control in Rwanda May 2022 states that more than 745,000 hectares of agricultural land in Rwanda are potentially eroded every year, and that over 3 million tons crop produces are estimated to be lost seasonally (6 million tons annually) due to severe erosion.

This report was produced by the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

At the moment, only a small part of the land in Rwanda is protected against erosion. High quality soil management and a community approach could be part of the solution. About 20 million tree seedlings, including agroforestry and fruit trees, will be planted in October this year, countrywide in order to support anti-erosion efforts.

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

### USD 9.5 million boost for sustainable cooling in Africa

This funding will go to a project dedicated to sustainable, smart cold chain, cooling and post-harvest management in Africa. This will support the work in this field at the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain (ACES) in Rwanda until 2025.

One of the aims of the project is to enable communities to build key cold chain and cooling services using novel technologies and support development of a network of skilled refrigeration engineers.

Read the full article [here](#).





## Latest Publications



### Agribusiness Market Scan Uganda 2022

The Dutch private sector requires recent and up-to-date market information to effectively do business in Uganda and the East African Community.

Uganda's agricultural statistical systems are not yet optimally developed, which creates information gaps that derail strategic decision-making by all sector stakeholders. To bridge this gap, the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality commissioned an Agribusiness Market Scan covering the last 5 years (2016-2021).

You can find and download this market scan [here](#).

## Events & developments

### Torwash – Waste to Energy technology from TNO

TNO developed the Torwash technology which reduces the amount of sewage sludge or organic waste in industrial processes up to 85 % and converts the waste to pellets that can be combusted. The remaining liquid can be efficiently fermented to biogas. The process applied is hydrothermal without additives.

TNO is now looking for large companies in the food & beverages, textiles, paper and packaging sectors that may be interested in submitting a [proposal to DFID](#) for a waste-to-energy pilot.

If you are interested, you can send us a message.

More information about Torwash (in Dutch) can be found [here](#).



### Event calendar

- 5 – 9 September [Africa Green Revolution Forum Summit](#)
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> of October: [Poultry Africa 2022](#), Kigali Rwanda
- 18<sup>th</sup> of October: opening of the fish farm at Gishanda, Rwanda
- 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> of October: [Uganda-European Union Business Forum](#) (UEUBF) 2022
- 7- 18 November: [UN Climate Change Conference](#), Egypt

## Uganda Netherlands Business Convention

The Uganda Netherlands Business Convention (UNBC) took place from August 24 until August 28. T

Building from previous editions, UNBC2022 focused on “The Quest for Identity - re-rooting the Ugandan Diaspora”

With this theme, UNBC2022 sought to emphasize the need to focus on assuring the diaspora of a broader relationship that cuts through the insider/outsider syndrome.

More than 60 Ugandan companies and 40 Dutch companies participated, and nine field visits took place.



## Training calendar 2022-2023 Dairy Training Centre

These are basic online trainings, meant for teachers, trainers, advisors, farm managers, extensionists who are dealing with dairy farmers and students.

A new module is added to the training cycle each month. Participants need a laptop/computer with good internet connection and a dairy farm to perform assignments for each module.

Once the training is successfully completed, participants will be certified as DTC trainer.

You can find more information and the modules [here](#).

## Invest International

The journey of Invest International started in 2019 when their current shareholders, the Dutch Ministry of Finance (51%) and FMO (49%), decided to start a Joint Venture.

The rationale behind this decision was that companies in the Netherlands with international activities related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals could use support in order to make their investments better financeable. These kinds of investments often come with high levels of risk, which makes it unlikely that the total investment can be financed on the market. The idea behind the Joint Venture was that Invest International should enlarge the possibilities for financing such high-risk international investments. What kind of opportunities could Invest International offer you for your investments in Rwanda or Uganda?

Get inspired by [this](#) example in which solar energy was added to a macadamia farm in South Africa.



## YALTA regional summit - “Accelerating Youth Driven Agroecological Businesses for Sustainable Food Systems”

The YALTA Regional Summit is convened by Netherlands Food Partnership in collaboration with PELUM Uganda and will bring together the results and lessons learned of the Youth in Agroecology and Business Learning Track Africa and instigate discussions on how these can be replicated and scaled up.

The summit will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of October. Further information about the agenda and in-person participation will be shared closer to the launch date.

Register [here](#) for the summit.



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