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Newsletter Vol.17

## Register now: ASARECA members registration open till December 31st



Dear esteemed AR4D Stakeholders,

ASARECA Secretariat launched a campaign in June 2020, to update information about its existing members and partners, including founding members through online registration. The process also offers an opportunity to interested AR4D institutions that would like to become members of ASARECA to register and join the Association. The registration exercise was initially scheduled to end in August 2020. However, it was extended to end on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 to give all our stakeholders an opportunity to register.

There has been quite good feedback from the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIS). However, there is still an opportunity for other categories with poor turn up to register as the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline approaches. We would therefore like to make a special call to all our stakeholders in the following categories to seize the opportunity to register with us before expiry of the deadline:

- Ministries Responsible for Agricultural Research for Development;
  - Ministries associated with Agriculture such as: Water, Fisheries, Environment, Forestry, Industry and Trade;
  - National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) that have not yet registered;
  - Regional and National Farmers Umbrella Bodies, and individual Farmer organizations;
  - Regional and National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Umbrella Bodies;
  - Regional and National Private Sector Umbrella Bodies, and individual Private Sector organizations;
  - Regional and National Value Chain Organizations and Agribusinesses;
  - Regional Higher Education Umbrella Organizations;
  - Associated Higher Education Institutions with a bias to AR4D;
  - The Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR);
  - Development Partners Groupings and individual Development Partners Organizations;
  - Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
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- Associated International, Regional and Local NGOs with interest in AR4D;
- Regional and National Youth Umbrella Organizations;
- Regional and National Women Organizations; and
- Financial Institutions wishing to invest in AR4D.

Visit our website to learn more about the registration and how to register by clicking the link below.  
<https://www.asareca.org/news/call-partner-asareca>

**Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda**  
**Executive Secretary—ASARECA**

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## News Updates



### [Deadly wheat disease comes to Africa](#)

A deadly wheat [disease](#) common to Asia and South America has been identified in Africa for the first time, raising fears of potential spread to wheat [crops](#) across the continent. Pawan Kumar Singh, head, wheat pathology, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) says that the fast-acting and devastating fungal disease known as wheat blast was first spotted in Africa in the Zambian rainfed wheat production system in the 2017-2018 crop cycle. [Read on](#)

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### [Kenya moves full speed ahead with GM cotton](#)

The impressive performance of genetically modified (GM) insect-resistant cotton on some Kenyan farms has prompted the

### [PRESS RELEASE: FAO to Partner with FARA and Continental Institutions to Push African CSA Agenda](#)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has pledged its commitment to providing support for Africa's climate-smart agriculture agenda. Dr. Ade Freeman, Regional Program Leader, FAO Regional Office for Africa, called on FARA to lead the continental CSA agenda and indicated FAO's readiness to provide financial support to FARA and the continental institutions for the realization of the climate-smart agriculture agenda. [Download Press Release](#)

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### [Traits for Livestock productivity](#)

African indigenous cattle have traits that enable them to survive blistering heat, [drought](#) and [diseases](#) such as trypanosomiasis, giving hope of breeding a new, superior generation that could boost productivity, a [study](#) has found. This could be good news for the livestock sector in Eastern and Central Africa as researchers now affirm that interventions such as selection of cattle breeds that can address challenges such as absence of vaccine and increasing drug resistance are within reach to meet the need to boost [livestock](#) production in Sub-Saharan Africa. [Read on](#)

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government to permit full commercialization of the crop. Although the first Bt cotton crop has yet to be harvested, farmers growing it on demonstration plots have observed a high germination rate, early maturation and resistance to common pests, especially the troublesome African bollworm, said Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya. The crop is genetically engineered to resist insect pests, thus reducing pesticide use while increasing yields. The government launched the process of testing Bt cotton seed for commercial production in Alupe University College in Busia County this past March before establishing 700 demonstration plots in Baringo, Busia, Kisumu, Kwale and Tana River counties. [Read on](#).



### **Kenya takes GM maize to open fields**

Kenya has taken a major step toward increasing its food and animal feed production, while reducing pesticide use, by planting genetically modified (GM) insect-resistant maize in open fields. With this latest development, Kenyan farmers are now closer to growing GM (Bt) maize on their farms. The Bt maize planted earlier in western Kenya is already showing resistance to the destructive stem borer and fall armyworm pests, which will help farmers reduce their use of pesticide sprays. [Read on](#)

### **COVID-19: Will African countries benefit from digital solutions?**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, digital technologies have emerged as key pathways to mitigating economic losses, and the agricultural sector is no different. E-commerce for agricultural businesses, for instance, can enable market access during the pandemic, fuelled by social distancing measures and the shift to cashless transactions and mobile money. But will African countries benefit from agricultural digital platforms (ag-platforms) or will the pandemic exacerbate the existing digital divide in access and use of these platforms? A [new paper](#) from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) reveals important insights on this question, using a farmer-level survey in Uganda. [Read on](#)



### **Where is Africa: Analysis of COVID-19 ramifications on global food trade**

Food products comprise around 17% of LDC merchandise imports – more than double the world average of 8%. 38 of the world's 47 LDCs are net food importers, making them extremely vulnerable to disruptions to food production and supply networks caused by measures to contain the coronavirus, resulting in food security challenges. The Commonwealth's 14 LDC members have significant intra-Commonwealth food trade by sourcing around 45% of food imports from other Commonwealth countries. What are the likely effects of this trends on food security and trade? [Read on](#)



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