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**Newsletter** Vol.22

## Welcoming Cameroon and Central African Republic



Dear AR4D colleagues,

We would like to bring you to speed with two recent events which are shaping the direction of AR4D transformation on our Continent. First, in collaboration with our apex body, FARA, ASARECA, AFAAS, CORAF and CCARDESA have been engaged in consultative meetings to provide a platform for key stakeholders in the AR4D space to discuss salient options to strengthen the food system on the African continent. The consultations are also meant to

allow participants to reflect on how to engineer a repositioning of Africa for the attainment of the SDGs. We held the first consultative webinar on February 16, 2021 and plan to hold a second one on March 9, 2021. The webinars are part of activities towards producing the *One Africa Voice* for the [UN Food Security Summit](#) scheduled for September 2021. Join us on the March 9 webinar.

Secondly, ASARECA joined other like-minded institutions in organizing the first One Earth Root and Soil Health Forum, a new annual event that examines the importance of root and soil health for food security, livelihoods and climate resilience. The Forum took place on March 1; during which, experts called for collective action in investing in science and technology targeting the early stages of plant growth. Enjoy, this and other updates!

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

## Latest updates

### Obituary

[Celebrating the life of Prof. Joseph Mukiibi, one of ASARECA's founding Members](#)



### Virtual Conference

#### The One Earth Root and Soil Health Forum

was launched on 1 March looking at the role of root and soil health in supporting food security, livelihoods and tackling climate change. The first global Forum on this subject, bringing together 1000 participants for an online event, it underlined the importance of root and soil health in achieving the global United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. *Full story:* [Experts point ways to better crops and farmer incomes](#)



### CAADP-XP4 Update

#### The Leadership of the CAADP-XP4

organizations including FARA and CAADP-XP4 consortium members (ASARECA, AFAAS, CORAF, CCARDESA and FANRPAN) have been planning series of webinars as part of activities towards producing the **One Africa Voice** for the [UN Food Security Summit](#) scheduled for September 2021. The first webinar was held

### Uganda

#### Coffee exports in Uganda have recorded

the highest ever export volumes, according to the Uganda Coffee Development Authority. Latest data from the authority show a steady recovery of the crop as volume exports increased by 43 per cent from 3.557 million bags exported in the 2015/16 Financial Year to 5.103 million bags in 2019/20. This is the highest volume of coffee that Uganda has ever exported in the last 30 years: *Read full story* [Uganda Registers Highest Coffee Exports in 30 years](#)

on February 16 and the second will be on March 9, 2021. The main objective of this consultative meeting is to provide a platform for key stakeholders in the agricultural research for development space to discuss salient options for the AR4D mechanisms to strengthen the food system on the African continent. To participate, Click here to Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vL5cH0mdTBiDrbfpbnWwiA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vL5cH0mdTBiDrbfpbnWwiA)

### Podcast



**Listen to Dr. Agnes Kalibata, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to the 2021 Food Systems Summit**, as she shares the remarkable story of her father, a trained doctor, who was forced to retrain as a farmer, but retaining the passion for his daughter's education. The daughter, would later become Rwanda's Agriculture minister and then the President of AGRA and more: *Listen in on:* <https://www.un.org/en/awake-at-night/S3-E19-finding-the-thing-you-love>

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### Rwanda

**Researchers from Rwanda Agricultural Board** are planning to provide seeds to farmers to conduct on farm trials for nine coffee varieties that are expected to produce high yields: Read full story [Rwanda government turns to new high yielding coffee varieties](#)

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### Uganda

**Scientists have identified genetic markers** of resistance to two deadly viral diseases in cassava varieties of East African origin. According to the scientists, the cassava varieties — Namikonga and Albert — which are genetically related through a West African cassava variety TME117 are preferred by farmers in Tanzania and have been cultivated in disease hot spots within the country for decades. *Read full story:* [Found: Genetic markers against deadly cassava viruses](#)

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### Kenya

“I have seen today that I will soon be able to plant Bt maize. I am now confident that it will improve my crop yields and help me fight pests and diseases,” said John Kamau, a farmer from Muranga County, who visited a demonstration plot that compared Bt maize to conventional non-Bt varieties. *Get the story here:* [Kenyan farmers clamor for GMO maize seed after visiting demonstration site](#)

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### SciDev.Net

**The world’s ability to feed its growing** — and increasingly hungry — population will depend on a culture of openness in research and data sharing. Making agricultural data accessible is key to accelerating new discoveries and translating them into practice in the field. *Perspective in this article:* [Create open data culture to feed hungry world – experts](#)

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## Technology Sharing updates

FARA has shared a set of three (3) that have been packaged into promotional materials to support Agricultural Extension activities in Africa. The promotional materials were developed following series of webinars that were organized by FARA, AFAAS and the respective TAAT Compacts (WorldFish – Aquaculture, CIP – OFSP and IITA – FAW) between July and November 2020 to disseminate the proven technologies under the TAAT Programme funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB). The Technologies have been published in the FARA library and can be accessed individually, they can be downloaded via the following links:

- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/11/fdn-42\\_2021-the-case-of-mono-sex-tilapia-fish-technology-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/11/fdn-42_2021-the-case-of-mono-sex-tilapia-fish-technology-fara-taat/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/22/fdn-54\\_2021-faw-identification-illustrated-guide-taat-2/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/22/fdn-54_2021-faw-identification-illustrated-guide-taat-2/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/11/fdn-53\\_2021-the-case-of-orange-fleshed-sweet-potato-ofsp-technology-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/11/fdn-53_2021-the-case-of-orange-fleshed-sweet-potato-ofsp-technology-fara-taat/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn\\_43-2021-the-case-of-cassava-weed-management-technology-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn_43-2021-the-case-of-cassava-weed-management-technology-fara-taat/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-44\\_2021-the-case-of-high-iron-beans-technology-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-44_2021-the-case-of-high-iron-beans-technology-fara-taat/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-45\\_2021-the-case-of-poultry-mother-brooder-units-technology-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-45_2021-the-case-of-poultry-mother-brooder-units-technology-fara-taat/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-46\\_2021-the-case-of-maize-technology-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-46_2021-the-case-of-maize-technology-fara-taat/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-47\\_2021-the-case-of-rice-technology-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-47_2021-the-case-of-rice-technology-fara-taat/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-48\\_2021-the-case-of-soil-fertility-enabler-sfe-](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-48_2021-the-case-of-soil-fertility-enabler-sfe-)

[technology-fara-taat/](#)

- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-49\\_2021-the-case-of-sorghum-and-millet-technology-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-49_2021-the-case-of-sorghum-and-millet-technology-fara-taat/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-50\\_2021-the-case-of-water-management-enabler-technology-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-50_2021-the-case-of-water-management-enabler-technology-fara-taat/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-51\\_2021-the-case-of-wheat-technology-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-51_2021-the-case-of-wheat-technology-fara-taat/)
- [https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-52\\_2021-the-case-of-youth-enabler-compact-fara-taat/](https://library.faraafrica.org/2021/02/10/fdn-52_2021-the-case-of-youth-enabler-compact-fara-taat/)



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