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Newsletter Vol.5

Aligning Regional AR4D Agenda to National and Global Priorities



Welcome to yet another edition of the ASARECA Newsletter, where we bring you up to speed with key highlights of happenings at the Secretariat and in the AR4D space in Eastern and Central Africa. As you already know, we convened the Inaugural Council of Patron Ministers Summit in May this year in Kampala, Uganda. The purpose of the Summit was to: Elect the Chairperson of the Council of Patron Ministers; receive and sign the revised ASARECA Constitution, inaugurate ASARECA new Board of Directors; receive ASARECA'S new Strategy for regional AR4D; receive evidence of the impact of Conservation Agriculture based Sustainable Intensification (CASI) technologies; and to engage ASARECA promoters and development partners on financing AR4D. In this edition, we are happy to share with you the Proceedings of the Summit. The Proceedings cover all highlights of the Summit including a joint Communiqué by the Patron Ministers.

ASARECA participated in the first Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue convened in August 5-6 in Kigali, Rwanda. The Dialogue was organized by the African Union and four multilateral agencies—the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank; and was Graced by Rwandan President H.E. Paul Kagame. The event focused on finalizing avenues to strengthen and accelerate support to food security programs in Africa and help African agriculture adapt to climate change through increased partnerships and coordination. We bring you updates on the Dialogue, and on the ongoing discourse around the deployment of Biotechnology in the Sub-region...and more.

Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda
Executive Secretary—ASARECA

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ASARECA News

Featured stories



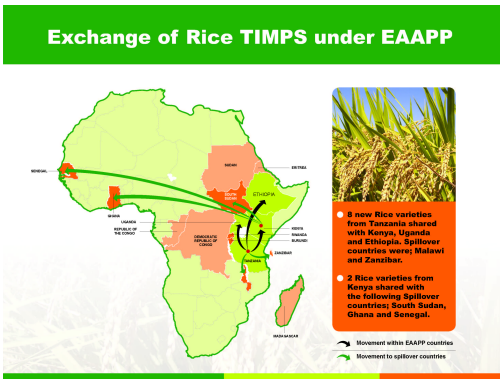
1. [Proceedings of ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers Summit](#)
2. [President Kagame calls for 'a big vision' for Agriculture](#)
3. [AR4D leaders commit to national and regional collaboration](#)
4. [Tracking the movement of EAAPP technologies across Africa](#)



Rwanda

The Discourse around Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) continues to draw mixed reactions in different countries. In Rwanda, Environment Management Authority (REMA) has drafted a law governing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the country along with the National Biosafety regulations. According to the New Times, a leading Daily, the draft law is due to be forwarded to the Rwanda Law Reform Commission for review.

Details in this article: [Rwanda takes early steps towards legalizing GMOs](#)



News from our Partners

Kenya

In a swift negation of past interventions that have failed to rescue over 1.3 million households from chronic food insecurity, the Government of Kenya is adopting radical measures that could finally recue the over 8 million targeted rural persons. Among the measures is the profiling of communities in arid areas and involve them in food production through cooperatives. Another measure is embracing genetically modified organisms technology and the establishment of 50 new large-scale farms of 2,500 acres or more to unlock up to 500,000 acres of new farm production. Details in this article: [Radical proposals to save Kenya's ailing agriculture](#)

Tanzania

Rice farmers of Morogoro in Tanzania have



Uganda

Meanwhile in Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni has for the second time declined to sign the Genetic Engineering Regulatory Bill. The Bill, now referred to as the Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Bill, was sent back to the President after Parliament revised it to address the issues earlier raised by the Head of State. But the President says he is

adapted a new technique known as 'System of Rice Intensification' (SRI), which is weather friendly and cost effective. Under this system, seedlings are grown in a non-flooded nursery and transplanted to a paddy field of shallow depth of only 1-2 cm. The plot is then left to dry until cracks become visible when another thin layer of water is introduced. With this system, say the farmers, they have as well been able to reduce on the use of chemical fertilizers. Details in this story: [Tanzania embraces new system of growing rice](#)



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Sudan

Farmers in Sudan's agricultural sector are celebrating the success of new heat-resistant wheat varieties which could transform the food landscape in Sudan. The country has been hard hit by a severe bread shortage and sharp price increases last year. Thanks to the new cultivars such as Imam, Zakia and Bohain, Sudan's wheat-growing areas saw a rise in production to around 303,000 ha, up from 230,000 ha in 2017. Details in this article: [In Sudan technology helps farmers overcome wheat woes](#)

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Burundi

The Government of Burundi needs to trek the path of diversifying its economy which is currently characterized by very narrow export base, but has the potential to grow given commensurate efforts, According to the *Scoping Study on Burundi's Agricultural Production in a Changing Climate and Supporting Policies*. Insights in our article--

disappointed that many of the critical issues he raised in the earlier objection (December 2017) were not fully addressed in the revised Bill. Details of this story are captured in the national daily, the New Vision in the article: [Why President Museveni Rejected the GMO Bill Again](#)

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Madagascar

National paddy (rice) production in 2018 still remained 8 percent below the previous five-year average (2013–2017) despite a nine 9 percent increase in output compared to 2017. Outbreaks of Fall Armyworm were reported in the country for the first time in November 2017, which drastically plummeted maize production by 24 percent in 2018 compared to production in 2017. This outlook is contained in a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission for Madagascar in 2018 following concerns over the impact of an extended dry period in southern regions and localized flooding in central regions. Details in this article: [Special Report: FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to Madagascar, 2018](#)

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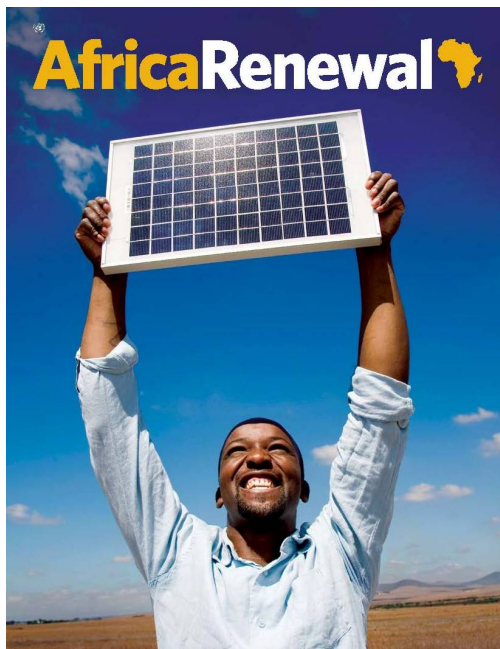
Ethiopia

Some good changes are happening in Ethiopia's Agriculture that are worth learning from. The recent overhaul of its agriculture, taking a leaf from the successful models applied by Asian nations like Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea is worth observing. The models feature two key elements: first, clear priorities to fix critical bottlenecks (skills, resources, funding and coordination) in the sector; and second, a dedicated body to advise key players in agriculture on how to remove the bottlenecks. The government gave the troubleshooting job to the Agriculture Transformation Agency (ATA), a semi-autonomous, donor-sponsored state agency that punches above its weight. So what are these things that other countries could learn from? Link: [Ethiopia: fixing agriculture](#)

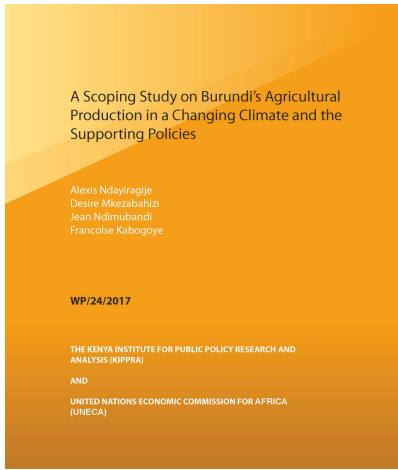
AR4D Events

1. September 17, 20, 2019 in Adis Ababa, Ethiopia: [2nd all Africa postharvest congress and exhibition](#)
2. January 23rd-24th, 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya: [Africa 2030-Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to handle the Challenges of a Changing Environment](#)
3. September 6, 2019, in Accra Ghana: [Green Revolution Forum](#)
4. October 23-25, 2019 in Accra Ghana: [Conference of the African Plant Breeders Association](#),
5. January 23-24 in Nairobi, Kenya: [2nd Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation in Africa](#).
6. October 16-18 October in Hyderabad India: [Big Data in Agriculture Convention 2019](#)
7. June 25-27, 2019. Nairobi, Kenya: [Eastern Africa Conference on Scaling Up Agro-Ecology and Ecological Organic Trade](#)
8. October 14-15, 2019 in Dakar: [Cracking the Nut 2019: Leveraging Systems for Improved Food Security](#)
9. November 18-20, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya: [ARUA International Conference 2019](#)
10. June 16-19, 2020 in Montpellier, France: [4th International Conference on Global Food Security Achieving local and global food security: at what costs?](#)
11. September 21-23, 2019 in New York, USA: [UN Climate Action Summit 2019](#).
12. October 3-5, 2019 in Mombasa, Kenya: [8th African Grain Trade Summit](#).
13. October 7-9, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: [African Climate Risks Conference 2019](#).

Publications



Africa Renewal is perhaps one of the most inspirational and informative magazines published around the Globe today. Published in English and French by the Strategic Communications Division of the United Nations, every story is tailored to change lives. This edition of the magazine recognizes that the effects of climate change are most felt in Africa; countries, organisations and individuals, including young people. All these segments are in one way or the other taking actions to tackle these effects. The edition highlights some outstanding climate action initiatives by young Africans. Link: https://www.un.org/africarenewal/sites/www.un.org/africarenewal/files/AR_33_2_English.pdf



commensurate efforts. A successful diversification of the economy is essential over the long run to enable Burundi to better withstand external shocks, generate income and create employment (especially of-farm employment), this recently published [Scoping Study on Burundi's Agricultural Production in a Changing Climate and Supporting Polices](#) shows.



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