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**Newsletter** Vol.51

## Keeping the Youth and Women in Focus in AR4D agenda

**Dear AR4D colleagues,**

This is yet another opportunity to bring you up-to-speed with what is happening in the Agricultural Research for Development landscape. This month, we held a four-day Policy Dialogue on Promoting Gender and Climate Responsiveness in Agricultural Policy Formulation and Implementation in Nairobi, Kenya. During the dialogue, it emerged that our stakeholders are passionate about addressing specific needs, priorities and realities of women, men, and the youth while formulating Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) policies. On our part, we commit to work in that direction and pledge to fast-track implementation of recommended policies, laws, regulations, standards, and procedures in Member States to facilitate the attainment of quick results in that area.



Good news of progress in transforming food systems keep streaming from Member States with Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) utilising control measures popularised by ASARECA in the early 2002s to control the Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) disease; NARO-Uganda putting into the public domain a catalogue of key “technologies” developed by the Organisation between 2012 and 2022; Tanzania taking a leap towards enhancing rice production and leading the region in the development of the strategic crop; Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) downscaling the Kenya Agricultural Observatory Platform to ward-level weather forecasts; Eritrea entering a strategic partnership with the Government of China to boost production of legumes, fruit trees, and oil.

We are excited to continue providing you this platform to catch up faster on the latest developments and events in AR4D in ECA.

Welcome

**Enock Warinda (PhD), Executive Director-**

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## News Highlights



### ASARECA, partners commit to address women, youth needs priorities

ASARECA and partners have committed to address specific needs, priorities and realities of women, men, and the youth while formulating Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) policies. Speaking during the opening of a four-day Policy Dialogue on Promoting Gender and Climate Responsiveness in Agricultural Policy Formulation and Implementation on August 28, 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, ASARECA Executive Director,

Dr. Enock Warinda said ASARECA will fast-track implementation of recommended policies, laws, regulations, standards, and procedures in Member States. [Read More](#)

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### NARO Publishes catalogue of key technologies developed over years

The National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) has published a catalogue of key “technologies” developed by the Organization between 2012 and 2022. The compendium includes strategies, approaches, prototypes, breeds, varieties, provenances, management practices, value added products, recipes and new agricultural knowledge in the domains of crops, forestry,

## News Highlights



### Rwanda rolls out 30-day campaign to tackle BXW, the deadly banana disease

Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) launched a 30-day Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) control campaign in Gisagara and Nyanza Districts in the Southern Province of Rwanda. The campaign aims to educate farmers on good agricultural practices to control the disease. The recommended practices to control Xanthomonas wilt include consistently removing infected mats, burying or burning infected residues, sterilizing farm tools, and timely removing the male buds. RAB introduced a digital application that serves a broader range of farmers across the country, helping them diagnose, control, and prevent BXW in their banana plantations. [Read more](#)

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### Tanzania reveals desire to lead the African Continent in rice production

Tanzania is racing to be Africa's rice hub by meeting in totality the regional need for the food crop. The 4th largest producer of rice in Africa and the second-largest in Eastern & Southern Africa, has put in place adequate plans and measures to increase rice production annually, set to reach a tipping point in 2030, with the ability to feed the

livestock, fisheries and natural resource management. The compendium is a documentation aimed at communicating and informing intended users about the presence of these technologies at NARO for increased uptake. [Read more](#)

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### **China, Eritrea partnership shines new hope towards agricultural transformation**

Agriculture is the mainstay of Eritrea's economy, with about four-fifths of the population engaged in farming and animal husbandry. However, the lack of improved crop varieties and old agricultural technologies seriously restrict the country's agricultural development. In order to promote the development of Eritrea's agricultural industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China has sent three groups of experts to Eritrea to carry out technical assistance in the fields of legumes, fruit tree gardening and oil, and achieved remarkable results. Broad beans, oilseed rape, and some other experimental crops have been harvested with unit yields increasing by more than 50 percent compared with local varieties. (Xinhua/Han Xu). [Read more](#)

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### **Angola heads to NARO-Uganda to benchmark on coffee value chain**

Coffee research in Angola is on a small scale, making it insignificant. Yet, the Government

region and beyond. According to the Director of the Mechanization Division; Ministry of Agriculture, Eng. Anna Mwangamilo Tanzania has adopted a transformative technology-dependent agricultural system model for rice, which includes mass adoption of improved seeds usage and other tools, including modern irrigation. [Read more](#)

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### **Kenya Agricultural Observatory Platform scales out forecasts to lower village level**

The [Kenya Agricultural Observatory Platform](#) (KAOP) now integrates ward-level weather forecasts, thanks to the partnership between Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA), the [Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization](#) (KALRO) and the [Kenya Meteorological Department](#) (KMD). The combination of more powerful data processing and user accessibility means that farmer decision support tools—localised for various Kenyan communities—now combine more data collected from a broader spectrum of partners, to provide more robust agro-advisories. KAOP, a digital platform developed through a joint initiative between the KALRO and the KMD, is designed to provide weather information to support decision-making in the agricultural sector in Kenya. [Read more](#)

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### **Unleashing the full potential of the Somalia's agricultural sector**

Agriculture is the backbone of Somalia's economy, contributing to approximately 70 percent of the country's GDP, 80 percent of employment, and about 50 percent of exports. Millions of Somalis depend on agricultural production for their

has prioritized coffee as one of the sectors that could help transform its economy. Angola is therefore on the lookout for models in the coffee value chain that the Government could benchmark to transform its own. Based on the foregoing, an eight-man delegation from Angola led by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Engineer Antonio Francisco De Assis, visited NARO-NaCORI to discuss strategic partnership opportunities to support coffee research in Angola. Specifically, the delegation was interested in benchmarking the steps taken by NARO-NaCORI towards development of a successful coffee value chain. [Read more](#)

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livelihoods. About 75 percent of the land is owned and managed by smallholder farmers, while 25 percent is owned/managed by large-scale farmers, with about 66 percent people employed in primary production. Agricultural production (i.e. crops) is concentrated mainly in the southern part of the country, where the most fertile land is located, and riverine water irrigation is abundantly available. Details of this huge agriculture-based economy can be found in the Food Security Delivery Compact. [Read More](#)

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## AR4D Events

### [UN Climate Change Conference](#)

#### **United Arab Emirates**

**Key information:** UN Climate Change conferences (or COPs) take place every year, and are the world's only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change with almost complete membership of every country in the world. During COP 28, the world will come together to agree on ways to address the climate crisis. [Read More](#)

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### [The Eighth Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum](#)

#### **February 12, 2024 - February 13, 2024**

**Key information:** The Farmers' Forum is a bottom-up dialogue on rural development and poverty reduction between farmers' organizations, IFAD and governments. The 2024 global meeting brings together more than 80 farmers' leaders from around the world, representing millions of smallholders and rural producers who work with IFAD and partner institutions. [Read More](#)

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### [The 11th International Conference on Agriculture 2024](#)

**Date: 19-20 September 2024**

**Venue: Bangkok, Thailand**

**Key Information:** The 11th International Conference on Agriculture 2024, will explore the latest research, ideas, and solutions related to Agriculture. This conference is a unique opportunity to connect with leading educators, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders from around the world. [Read More](#)

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### [Science & Innovation for Food Systems: Follow-up to UN 2021 Food Systems Summit.](#)

**Date: April 11, 2023**

**Venue: Washington DC**

Following the [UN Food Systems Summit](#) held in September 2021, the [UN Food Systems Coordination](#) Hub, was established in early 2022 to coordinate follow-up to the summit, including facilitation of food systems transformation pathways at the country level. The 2023 follow up conference brings together members of the UNFSS Scientific Group, the Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, and the Managing Director of the CGIAR Science Group on Systems

Transformation to explore scientific findings that inform food systems transformation. Date: 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. Eye Street, Washington DC. [Read More](#)

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### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

ASARECA is seeking to fill two attractive positions for: (1) Head of Finance and (2) Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. Interested applicants should complete the online application form and upload their CV, Cover Letter and relevant academic certificates all in one file not exceeding 10 Megabytes (MB). [Read more](#)

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