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**Newsletter** Vol.52

## **Taking deliberate steps towards agricultural transformation**

**Dear AR4D colleagues,**

The story of Ethiopia's move to wheat self-sufficiency is an inspiring African Story that must be told whenever it is opportune. The second largest wheat producer in Africa, Ethiopia was faced with a wheat demand curve, which was outstripping domestic supply and forced the country to cover about 30 % of the deficit through commercial imports and food aid. This set in the bad economics high foreign exchange spending. The good news is that Ethiopia turned this challenge into an opportunity through journey to achieve self-sufficiency. This edition of our newsletter offers you an insight into the strategies that worked to turn around, including agricultural area expansion, irrigation development and yield gap closure. We also bring you updates round our Member States.



Some of the key highlights today include: The launch of a breeding facility for indigenous chicken for better quality by the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO)--Uganda; the call by Kenya's President, William Ruto for African leaders to utilize their country's territorial borders as the bridges for cross-border trade and not as barriers; the rallying call by Tanzania's President, Samia Suluhu Hassan to fellow Presidents to use the Continent's present state of challenges to create resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems; the fresh focus by research leaders to pursue agro-ecology practices for sustainable food security in Africa; the exciting tale of the potential of Somalia in the African AR4D landscape; and the big push in Kenya to make avocado the 'next big thing'. Welcome

Welcome

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

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**News Highlights**

**News Highlights**



### **Ethiopia's Wheat Self-Sufficiency Success Story is Exemplary to African Countries**

Ethiopia is the second largest wheat producer in Africa. Though wheat production has been increasing steadily in the past decades, the demand for the crop outstripped domestic supply and forced the country to cover about 30 % of the deficit through commercial imports and food aid. With a growing demand due to burgeoning population, increase in income, and preference toward wheat-based products, the country started has a journey to achieve self-sufficiency and save the foreign currency reserve spent on import. The government of Ethiopia is committed to self-sufficiency through initiatives such as wheat area expansion, irrigation development and yield gap closure. In this review, we explored wheat production trends and the roles of the recent government initiatives toward wheat self-sufficiency. [Read More](#) & [Also Read this](#)

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### **NARO launches breeding facility for indigenous chicken for better quality**

A poultry breeding facility at NARO Mukono ZARDI, Ntawo village was commissioned on Wednesday 27th September 2023 by the State Minister of Agriculture Hon. Kyakulaga Fred Bwino. The focus of the facility is to produce improved local chicken breeds creating more profits from both meat and



### **Focus on agroecology practices for sustainable food security in Africa**

As the Africa's Food Systems Forum 2023 Summit (AGRF-2023) concluded in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, African countries have been urged to focus on agriculture ecology, in response to climate change which is currently threatening food systems. Speaking during the launch of new campaign called 'Fund our future, Action Aid Manager for Tanzania, Mr. Elias Mtinda, noted that the campaign intends to push financial institutions to cut funding for climate harming industrial agriculture and fossil fuel projects. Mr Mtinda said it is high time for the African countries to focus on agroecology to ensure food security in the continent. [Read more](#)

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### **Somalia, an Emerging African Agricultural Success Story to Watch**

Long derided as a failed state, Somalia is now emerging as a success in agriculture with its 6.2 million hectares of virgin land for farming and expansive waters for fishing. At the recent Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in Nairobi, Somali government officials said that about 2.9 million hectares of land — 2.3 million hectares under rain-fed agriculture and 630,000ha under irrigation — have been exploited for agriculture. [Read More](#)

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eggs. The infrastructure was constructed with support from the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) project and European Union. In addition, a modern hatchery system was installed to support high rate of supply of day-old chicks to smallholder farmers in the country. [Read more](#)

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### **Kenya's President Advocates for Cross-Border Trade, Youth Empowerment**

Kenya's President, William Ruto has called on African leaders to utilise their country's territorial borders as the bridges for cross-border trade and not as barriers. Ruto also noted that there is no future in agriculture, unless the continent brings young people on board. Dr Ruto commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for swiftly facilitating smooth flow of goods between Tanzania and Kenya. He noted that Kenya is a major consumer of Tanzania's food despite the fact that few years back, there were few people in the borders, who delayed consignments entry in either country. [Read more](#)

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### **Tanzania's President rallies African colleagues towards Agriculture Revolution**

Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Thursday I appealed to fellow leaders in Africa to use the continent's present state of challenges to create resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems. Addressing delegates who took part the presidential summit at the Africa Food Systems Forum 2023, Dr Samia implored development partners, AGRF members and the private sector to support African countries in initiatives to develop the agricultural sector, noting that the move was



### **Eritrea Agricultural Innovation and Food System under Review for Improvement**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Eritrea, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the national component of a global project entitled "Developing capacity in Agriculture Innovation System project: scaling up the Tropical Agriculture Platform Framework". The project aims to strengthen capacities to innovate for climate resilient agriculture and food system. One of the key activities of the project is the assessment of the Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) in Eritrea. The assessment will also identify major bottlenecks and entry points for strengthening AIS in Eritrea as well as inform policy and decision makers on AIS performance and make recommendations for its improvement.

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### **Israel launches 400 ha avocado farm in Kenya to boost production and quality**

Granot International Company, one of the biggest producers and packers of avocados has officially launched its operations in Kenya. Granot operates the largest avocado packing house in Israel and produces one-third of Israel's total avocado yield. With an annual revenue of more than USD 1.5billion, it is one of the largest cooperatives in the world. The Israel-based company has begun avocado farming in Kenya and aims to create



critical in strengthening food security globally. "It's estimated that over 283 million Africans live in starvation and hunger every day, while others contract malnutrition and diseases relating to nutrition...others die of hunger and starvation; this is not acceptable," stated President Samia [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.**

a value addition chain for both local consumption and export. They have planted 55,000 trees of avocado with the ultimate target of 300,000 on a 400-hectare farm.

[Read more](#)

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### **DR Congo cashes in on Agri-Business Forum to unlock agriculture potential**

During the recent Agri-Business Forum in Kinshasa, government and economic players from the Democratic Republic of the Congo emphasised the urgent need to exploit the country's agricultural potential in order to meet the challenge of food insecurity. With a territory four times the size of France, agricultural production potential capable of feeding a quarter of the world's population, climatic diversity, freshwater reserves and hydroelectric potential, it's clear that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has major assets. That was the question being discussed at the [Agri Business Forum](#) in Kinshasa. [Read More](#)

**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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