



Taking the Path towards Sustainable Agriculture Financing

Dear AR4D colleagues,

During the May 2023 ASARECA Agriculture Ministerial Conference (AAMC), the Ministers, among other things, resolved to ensure that Member States would take responsibility for financial sustainability of the Association by clearing all outstanding membership arrears. Over the last two months, the ASARECA Board of Directors Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Kipyego Cheluget and I have held discussions with Agriculture line Ministers in Member States as a follow up on agreed actions. The ministers visited so far include the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda, Hon. Ildephonse



Musafiri, and the Minister of Agriculture, the State of Eritrea Hon. Arefaine Berhe. The talks centred on mechanisms for ensuring financial sustainability of ASARECA including mechanisms for enhancing the role of the ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers in mobilising financial resources for the Association. Arrangements are underway to meet with Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary, His Excellency Wycliffe Musalia Mudavadi, who is also the Minister of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary (Minister) of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Hon. Mithika Linturi, and Tanzania's Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Hussein Mohamed Bashe.

In another note, ASARECA in collaboration with IUCN held the Regional Common Ground Dialogue for Mainstreaming Sustainable Agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa in October 17-18, 2023, in Kampala, which called for the promotion of nature-based solutions for sustainable agriculture. We also engaged the East African Community at a workshop in Kampala on October with a proposition to coordinate efforts to jerk the current slow progress in prevention of aflatoxin contamination at country and regional levels.

Finally, our region is on the move. We bring you highlights including the planned \$6.6 billion investment by the Democratic Republic of Congo Government in Agriculture transformation; the role of Africa Food Systems Forum 2023 as a defining moment in unlocking the political and financial commitments towards achieving sustainable food systems; Madagascar's \$227 million investment to increase productivity and Strengthen the resilience of rural livelihoods; and FAOs

plan to assist over one million vulnerable Sudanese farmers with 10,000 tonnes of sorghum, millet, groundnut and sesame seeds for planting.

Welcome

Enock Warinda (PhD), Executive Director-

News around ECA Region



DR Congo announces USD 6.6b Agriculture Transformation fund

With its 80 million hectares of cultivable land, four million hectares of irrigable land, varied climate allowing year-round agriculture, having 7 to 8% of the world's exploitable fresh water, and its approximately 125 million hectares of grazing land, sufficient for 40 million head of livestock, coupled with the size of its population, DR Congo incontestably has the means to be the breadbasket of Africa. Aware of this potential, the DRC Government aims to invest \$6.6 billion over ten years in its Agriculture Transformation Programme (PTA) to fulfil its commitment to becoming Africa's breadbasket. The announcement was made at the "DRC Agribusiness Forum", held on 4 and 5 October 2023 in Kinshasa. [Read More](#)

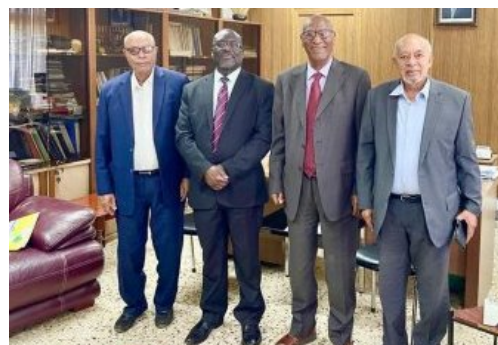


Secretariat News Highlights



Rwanda Agriculture Minister, Musafiri Ildephonse meets ASARECA delegation

ASARECA Board of Directors Vice- Chairman Ambassador Kipyego Cheluget and ASARECA Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda on October 11, 2023 held discussions with the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda, [Hon. Dr. Ildephonse Musafiri](#) at the Ministry of Agriculture in Kigali Rwanda. The talks centred around mechanisms for ensuring financial sustainability of ASARECA. Specifically, they discussed mechanisms for enhancing the role of the 15-member ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers by creating an environment for enhanced partnerships with potential Development Partners in a bid to mobilise financial resources for the Association. [Read More](#)



Eritrea Agriculture Minister hosts ASARECA ED, Dr. Enock Warinda

Africa Food Systems Forum 2023 unlocks Political, Financial Commitments

The Africa Food Systems Forum 2023 Summit attracted more than 5400 delegates from 90 countries - including 5 Heads of State and Government, 30 Ministers, 6 former Heads of State and Government, more than 80 heads of international agencies and businesses were present. It was a defining moment in highlighting and unlocking the political, policy, and financial commitments and innovations the continent has made and continues to work towards achieving productive, nutritious, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems. The Forum followed the Africa Climate Summit and elaborated the call for impactful outcomes to bolster Africa's role and influence in addressing pressing challenges in the global climate change discourse, particularly before COP28. [Read More](#)



Madagascar's USD 227 million Investment to Increase Productivity, Rural Resilience

A new projects operating through an integrated landscape approach to support community-led restoration of watersheds, rehabilitation and improved management of irrigation infrastructure and services, sustainable intensification of agriculture production, and strengthening of priority agri-food value chains kicked off in Madagascar this year. Overall, the project will reach 150,000 households, including 165,000 farmers who will benefit from the deployment of block-chain-boosted input vouchers and training on climate-smart agriculture and agroecological practices. It is financed through a USD 227 million credit. [Read More](#)

ASARECA Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda on September 21, 2023 held discussions with the Minister of Agriculture, the State of Eritrea Hon. Arefaine Berhe at Ministry of Agriculture offices in Asmara. The minister was flanked by Mr. Amanuel Negassi, his Special Advisor, who is also the President of ASARECA General Assembly. The talks centred on mechanisms of ensuring financial sustainability of ASARECA, especially enhancing the role of the ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers in mobilising financial resources for the Association. They also discussed progress in ongoing efforts to recover arrears in membership contributions to the Association.

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ASARECA pushes for closer collaboration with AGRA in serving Member States

ASARECA Board of Directors Vice-Chairman, Ambassador, Kipyego Cheluget on October 12, held talks with AGRA Acting Vice-President in charge of Programmes, Prof. Jean Jaques Mbonigaba Muhinda, at AGRA offices in Nairobi, Kenya. The talks centred on close collaboration between the two institutions to leverage complementarities, avoid duplication and wastage of resources while maximising economies of scale. During the talks, Ambassador Cheluget highlighted the benefits that AGRA stands to gain by utilising already existing ASARECA Agricultural Research for Development structures in the National Agricultural Research Systems. [Read More](#)

Kenyan High Commissioner, ASARECA in talks over resourcing joint initiatives

ASARECA Board of Directors Vice-Chairman, Ambassador, Kipyego Cheluget and ASARECA Executive Director, Dr. Enock



Emergency seed distribution kicks off to leverage on ongoing planting season

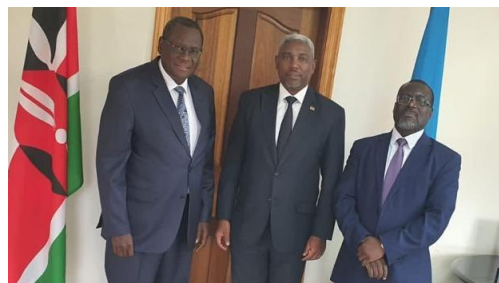
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has kicked off its emergency seeds distribution campaign to reach farmers in key regions, ensuring that they have the necessary resources to meet food production needs. This comes as a response to the urgency of the ongoing main crop production season (June – October 2023) in the country. The plan of the initiative is to reach and assist over one million vulnerable farmers and their families with 10 000 tonnes of sorghum, millet, groundnut and sesame seeds for planting across 17 States.

[Read More](#)



Regional Dialogue to address disconnect between agriculture and conservation

The Regional Common Ground Dialogue on Sustainable Agriculture has identified the disconnect between agriculture and conservation, lack of methods to monitor land health, poor understanding of Nature-Based Solutions within the agriculture sector as some of the critical challenges that that impede optimal delivery of goods in the Agricultural sector. In a joint communique signed at the close of the Dialogue on October 18, 2023, participants listed loss of soil fertility and biodiversity, landscape



Warinda, on October 11, 2023 paid a courtesy call to the Kenyan High Commissioner to Rwanda, Ambassador Philip Mundia Githiora at the High Commission officers in Blv de L' Umuganda, Kigali, Rwanda. Among other things, discussions with Ambassador Githiora centred on the role of Diplomatic Missions as brand ambassadors of ASARECA, as part of the broad campaign to mobilise resources to ensure sustainability of the Association. They also discussed progress in ongoing efforts to recover arrears in membership contributions to the Association. [Read More](#)



Regional Dialogue Calls for Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture

It is the best interest of current and future generations that researchers should promote nature-based solutions because such solutions provide significant benefits to human beings and the environment as a whole, ASARECA Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda has told participants at the just concluded Regional Common Ground Dialogue for Mainstreaming Sustainable Agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa. Addressing delegates at the Dialogue held on October 17-18, 2023, in Kampala, Uganda, Dr. Warinda noted that sustainable agriculture is one of the development pathways due to its huge potential to address assorted biotic and

degradation, and destruction of underground flora and fauna as interconnected threats to the farming systems. [Read More](#)

abiotic challenges affecting agricultural production. [Read More](#)

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](#)

[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](#)

[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](#)

[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: 11th April, 2023. Eye Street, Washington DC. [Read More](#)

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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