



Mobilizing Agricultural Transformation Potential in our Region

Dear AR4D colleagues,

ASARECA Board OF Directors Vice Chairman, Ambassador Dr. Cheluget and I have since October this year made important visits to Member States to seek audience with our Patrons, the Ministers in charge of Agriculture. In all our visits which have seen us meet the Ministers for Eritrea, Burundi, Kenya, and Rwanda, they key issues of discussion are the same, namely: Finding mechanisms for sustainable financing of ASARECA; strengthening the role of Patron Ministers in the oversight and priority setting of the Association; streamlining coordination of activities of international and multilateral global actors in



agricultural research for development in Member States; etcetera. We will continue these visits, which will culminate into a Ministerial Dialogue early in 2024.

During the past few weeks, we identified with one of our regional blocs, the East African Community, during a two-day strategic engagement workshop on Aflatoxin prevention and control convened in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop provides us an opportunity to re-state our commitment to supporting national and regional initiatives on prevention and control of aflatoxin and its associated losses. Let us work together on this.

For ASARECA, it was such a refresher when we were informed of the visit by a high-powered delegation from the Government of South Sudan to NARO-Uganda to benchmark on innovations that have made NARO one of the top rated research institutions on the Continent. As you may be aware, ASARECA has supported Member States to learn from one another. Any efforts by States to organise such visits in peer countries are encouraged. As a Secretariat, we pledge to continue supporting whenever resources allow.

Lastly, we would like to keep cassava, one of the priority food security and industrial crops in our Continent top on the development agenda. As you may already know, cassava is a vital crop in Africa, with an estimated 60% of the world's cassava production taking place on the continent. The crop provides an essential source of food and income for millions of small-scale farmers, with more than 80% of the cassava produced in Africa being consumed locally. In addition to its role as

a staple food, cassava is also used for industrial purposes, including the production of ethanol, animal feed, and starch.

We have sourced for you news on the above areas and more important issues to keep you posted on priority AR4D discourse globally. Welcome to this edition.

Enock Warinda (PhD), Executive Director-

News around ECA Region



Keeping Cassava top in Africa AR4D agenda: Statistics that must not be lost

Cassava is a vital crop in Africa, with an estimated 60% of the world's cassava production taking place on the continent. The crop provides an essential source of food and income for millions of small-scale farmers, with more than 80% of the cassava produced in Africa being consumed locally. In addition to its role as a staple food, cassava is also used for industrial purposes, including the production of ethanol, animal feed, and starch. In spite of the importance of cassava in Africa, the industry faces numerous challenges that limit its potential for growth and development. [Read More](#)



ASARECA, KALRO Train Kenyan Farmers to Adapt to Climate Change effects

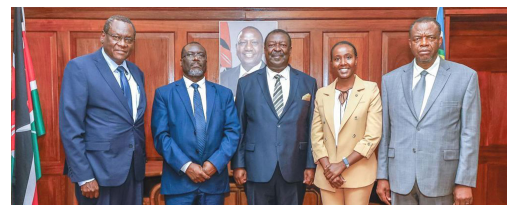
ASARECA and the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) on November 27, 2023 officially flagged off a four-day training of farmers from Green

Secretariat News Highlights



Kenya's Agriculture Ministry Cabinet Secretary holds talks with ASARECA ED

ASARECA supports national and regional initiatives on prevention and control of aflatoxin and its associated losses, ASARECA Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda has said. Addressing participants during a two-day strategic engagement workshop on Aflatoxin prevention and control on October 23 to 24, 2023 in Kampala, Uganda, Dr. Warinda pledged to work with the East African Community to coordinate efforts to jerk current slow progress in prevention of aflatoxin contamination at country and regional levels. [Read More](#)



ASARECA Delegation Briefs Kenya's Prime Minister on Regional Agriculture

Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary (Prime Minister), His Excellency Wycliffe Musalia Mudavadi, who is also the Minister of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, met ASARECA Board of Directors Vice Chairman, Ambassador Dr. Kipyego Cheluget and ASARECA Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda on November 8 in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. Among key

Shade Farmer Group in Kaathi in Kimutwa location and the Amazing Grace Framers Group in Yinthungu village, Mutituni, Machakos, Kenya, on Climate Smart Agriculture technologies. Speaking at the official launch of the training, KALRO Katumani Institute Director, Dr. Patrick Ketiem said the ASARECA/KALRO partnership targets downscaling Agricultural technologies to farmers by ensuring the technologies are user-friendly and production enhancing. [Read More](#)



Tanzanians Rush for the Green Gold as International Markets Open up

A fresh green-gold rush is rocking pockets of the country, if hundreds of thousands of fortune seekers venturing into high-value fruit farming for environmental health and economic gains, is anything to go by. Thanks to a champion of the horticultural industry, Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) supports turning the avocado, marula, and spices value chains into gold rush occupations. [Read More](#)



South Sudan Government Delegation Visits NARO-Uganda to Benchmark

A delegation from the Government of South

important issues, the meeting focused on the role of ASARECA, working with its Member States, in enhancing food security and agricultural transformation in the Eastern and Central African region. They agreed that pursuing a comprehensive Food Systems approach was the way to go in addressing the whole range of challenges and bottlenecks in the food value chains. [Read More](#)



Burundi's Agriculture Minister Hosts ASARECA Board Vice Chair and ED

ASARECA Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda and the Board of Directors Vice Chairman, Ambassador Dr. Kipyego Cheluget today (November 7,) 2023 held discussions with His Excellency the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi, Ir. Prosper Dodiko at his office in the capital, Bujumbura. The Minister was flanked by the Director General of [Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi](#), [Dr. Alfred Niyokwishimira](#). [Read More](#)



ASARECA Courts EAC to streamline efforts to contain aflatoxin contamination

ASARECA supports national and regional initiatives on prevention and control of aflatoxin and its associated losses, ASARECA Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda has said. Addressing participants

Sudan visited NARO on a learning visit on the 17th of November 2023. The team led by their Minister of Livestock and Fisheries was received by NARO's top leaders at the National Crops Resources Research Institute, Namulonge. Upon arrival, they held a brief meeting with the NARO leadership, led by Dr. Swidq Mugerwa. Dr Mugerwa explained the various areas of collaboration in agricultural research and development that NARO has with South Sudan. [Read More](#)



Kenya Advances GM Maize to Increase Yields, Reduce use of Pesticides

Kenya has taken a major step toward increasing its food and animal feed production, while reducing pesticide use, by planting genetically modified (GM) insect-resistant maize in open fields. With this latest development, Kenyan farmers are now closer to growing GM (Bt) maize on their farms. The Bt maize planted earlier in western Kenya is showing resistance to the destructive stem borer and fall armyworm pests. Bt maize is expected to be commercialized by 2022 if it is approved by Kenya's relevant government agencies. [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

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Rwanda Hosts Land, Soil, Crop Information Services Workshop

Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board hosted the Land, Soil, and Crop Information Services (LSC-IS) to support Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) project workshop. The workshop from 30th November to 1st December 2023 was convened in close collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute and supported by the staff of ISRIC, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WC DI), Wageningen Environmental Research, World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), ASARECA and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). [Read More](#)

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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