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Newsletter Vol.29

Towards building back better food systems

Dear esteemed stakeholders,

Greetings from ASARECA Secretariat

Two global events that affect decisions and actions in the African Continent have just ended. The United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 and the CoP26 UN Climate change Conference left reverberating messages on the future of 'food' across the globe. As the Agricultural Research and Development community, we are reminded that the world is not on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or any of the six World Health Assembly global nutrition targets by 2025. We are awakened to the stark reality that we cannot correct the snail-slow trajectory unless we systemically scale up investments and actions across food and agriculture, health, social protection, biodiversity, and natural resource management. A new, but probably not a brand new semantic, the "the food system" returned as a buzz word for the coming days.



It is our hope as ASARECA that we will refresh the food systems way of doing things and realign activities related to food production, supply, processing, safety, marketing, market access and consumption to ensure improved nutrition and access to affordable healthy diets. Regarding the CoP26 UN Climate change Conference in Scotland, over 25 African leaders took centre stage to demand climate justice and greater support from richer nations. ASARECA followed through the Conference discourse to pick and draw your attention to discussions that could be of interest to our region. When we meet in the near future, let's discuss actions around food systems.

Welcome to our monthly news updates.

Dr. Enock Warinda
Interim Executive Director-ASARECA

Latest updates



Youth and agriculture value chains

Africa has the youngest population in the world, and it is growing fast. By 2055, the continent's youth population (aged 15-24), is expected to be [more than double](#) the 2015 total of 226 million. Yet the continent remains stubbornly inhospitable politically, economically, and socially to young people. This stark reality was sounded as a reminder to African Governments during the ongoing Africa-Wide Agriculture Extension Week 2021 (AAEW2021), (Nov, 14-20). [Full story: "The futility or success of Africa's future depends on efforts to address the youth factor".](#)



Uganda's 2nd Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. General Moses Ali

Communicate agriculture correctly

African governments have been urged to invest heavily in agriculture to make economic and security sense. In the same

AR4D Space



Climate change agriculture and food

During the CoP26 UN Climate Change Conference, over 25 African leaders took center stage to demand climate justice and for wealthy countries make good on their pledge to deliver \$100 billion a year in climate finance to developing countries – a commitment made at the UN climate talks in 2009. Below are links to discussions of interest to Africa. [Details: Highlights for Africa from CoP 26 Climate Change Summit](#)



The River Nile and Agriculture

The Nile Basin Discourse Regional Manager, Dr. Hellen Nabwala Natu, on November 19 paid a courtesy call on ASARECA Interim Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda in Entebbe. The two chief executives reviewed the thematic areas and activities and identified areas of possible collaboration. Full story: [Nile Basin Discourse and ASARECA target the water and water nexus](#)

vein, agricultural extension experts and promoters have been advised to communicate agriculture the way it ought to be. These are some of the key points ASARECA picked during the ongoing Africa-Wide Agriculture Extension Week 2021 (AAEW2021), (Nov, 14-20). **Full story: [Key message to African Extension professionals: 'Package Agriculture as 'a kool business'](#)**



Food systems gone crazy?

Even before COVID-19 unleashed itself on the globe, the world had swerved off course to meet its target of zero hunger by 2030. Hunger is increasing, while nutritious food remains out of reach for many of the world's poorest. Figures from a [multi-agency UN report](#) show that global food insecurity [rose as much last year as in the previous five years combined](#). The number of undernourished people increased by as many as 161 million, reaching up to 811 million – or around ten per cent of the world's population. The most pronounced rise was in Africa, where one fifth of the population is undernourished. Feature story: [Feeding the future: facts and figures](#) Source *SciDev.net*

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and ASARECA have held ice-breaking talks to explore areas of mutual interest and collaboration. ASARECA Interim Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda, and the NBI Executive Director Eng. Sylvester Matemu, agreed that both institutions deal with efficient use of similar resources to make a change in the livelihoods of the regions citizens. **Full story: [NBI and ASARECA explore corporation in water use efficiency](#)**



The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) marked a significant milestone on November 16, 2021 when its Executive Director received the institution's official land title from Uganda's Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Sam Cheptoris. **[Ugandan Government gives titled land to Nile Basin Initiative to build home](#)**



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