

Food Loss & Waste Africa

INTELLIGENCE REPORT 9
January - March 2017



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Funded by The Rockefeller Foundation

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■ ABOUT THIS REPORT

Making good decisions is all about being informed but the issue of post-harvest loss, that has both development elements and commercial impacts, is underserved. There is currently no one place to go for the information you need - the latest innovations and issue dynamics from a country or value chain perspective, and yet the importance of this issue is massive:

- The amount of food lost each year due to post-harvest loss (PHL) is enough to feed the total number of undernourished people globally.¹
- In sub-Saharan Africa alone, 30-50% of production is lost at various points along the value chain.¹
- FLW causes as much as US\$940 billion per year in economic losses.²

The report answers the question: What key movements related to food-loss along the value chain and across commodities, have been happening in the last quarter / period in Africa? It pulls from a wide range of sources to provide a full list of all relevant stories and provides an overview from both a country perspective and a value chain perspective, and highlights on some of the biggest innovations or particularly forward looking stories as well as links to each story so readers can pursue further information.

This intelligence has been prepared for the Rockefeller Foundation to support the YieldWise initiative, which aims to reduce post-harvest food loss for African farmers. It is the 9th volume of Food Loss & Waste reports and currently focuses on Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Malawi.

Numerous organizations and groups are putting significant effort into advancing the issue, but there is still a massive information gap. The current report covers our mandate with the Rockefeller Foundation, and we aim to expand its coverage over time. Contact us to learn more: foodloss@dalberg.com

¹ Reducing Food Loss Along African Agricultural Value Chains, Deloitte, 2014.

² Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard, WRI, 2016.

1 Report Summary

System level investments are being made across all countries for both broad commercialization of the agricultural sector and specific commodity value chains (rice, cocoa), as well as for a range of other more targeted aims including agricultural infrastructure development, mechanization, to boost production as well as for climate adaptation. Most of these investments are being spearheaded by national and regional governments, although civil society is also playing a role. The majority are also supported by donors and multi-lateral funders such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank. Although a number of these are in the tens and hundreds of USD millions, the largest one hitting headlines is the Federal intervention funds (USD 2.4 bn) approved in Nigeria during this period.

Policy announcements also support broad commercialization of the agricultural sector as well as more targeted policies including crop diversification and better grain sector management. Nigeria features strongly in the policy announcements, but both Kenya and Malawi also had some announcements around grain management and refocusing the national agricultural policy respectively.

Improving access to markets for small holder farmers is about expansion/creation of new markets (investment in new processing facilities or the announcements of larger production targets), strengthening of producer partnerships (through new out-grower schemes, improving product quality/ standards), as well as reducing market barriers (through lowering logistics costs or easier trading platforms). All access to market focussed initiatives, except those focused on reducing system level barriers, focus on particular commodities. This period has announcements for

rice, potato, tomato, cassava, bananas, canola, soybeans, mangos and yams. Most announcements are from the private sector but not all. In Nigeria, for example, there were a few stories around improving product standards for export and introducing pre-screening. Notably announcements on initiatives in Malawi were absent from the access to markets improvements during this period.

Capacity building is being driven by the public sector, donors and civil society and focuses on a range of themes from broad commercialization and international standards, to climate change adaptation and youth capacity building. There is mixed focus in capacity building on broad skills development and information provision to commodity specific including groundnuts, cocoa, and tomatoes.

Technical innovations, as with most reports, comprised a mixed bag of solar powered cold storage and drying machinery, with a sensor-based automatic drip irrigation system, through to new satellite-based yield measurement techniques. Further a competition is being held in Kenya focussing on technologies specifically aimed at reducing post-harvest losses – the inaugural East Africa Post-harvest Technologies Competition 2017.

A number of announcements around crop news linked to major crop losses were also identified primarily linked to pest devastation, primarily in maize. Natural shocks and challenges particularly Armyworm attacks in Southern Africa were detrimental to the sector post the El-Nino effects. Zambia reported the destruction of 124,000 hectares and Malawi 2,000 hectares, whereas in Nigeria, farmers reported loss worth millions. In Tanzania, red-billed birds have destroyed 400 hectares of rice paddy.

Sector Summaries

■ Public Sector

Sector initiatives are geared towards overall agricultural and economic development for example, transport revamp, agribusiness financing and on-farm solutions. Nigeria has recorded the largest number of public sector stories majorly due to the government economic transformative agenda through agriculture; providing financing opportunities and continued multi-stakeholder engagements. Similarly, Tanzania is working towards attaining a middle-income status by 2025 which has overseen various mechanization projects across the country. A Kenya-India partnership will enhance mechanization. Malawi did not record any public-sector stories.

A US\$4.5 billion loan provision from China to Nigeria, will be channelled towards agricultural infrastructure, specifically tractors and irrigation machinery. Further, N750B (US\$2.4 billion) agricultural intervention fund to enhance productivity and fund related initiatives. In Tanzania, the cassava industry receives a major boost with a US\$1 billion Chinese investment to establish processing zones and engage farmers in outgrower schemes.

Tanzania is working towards raising US\$45.9 billion from taxes to finance its industrialization agenda, and a US\$1.2 billion loan from the World Bank to finance infrastructure projects.

Malawi developed three key agricultural transformation policies with support from the World Bank's International Development Association. The National Agriculture Policy (NAP) will enhance commercialization through promoting wealth generating value chains i.e. increased on-farm productivity, processing and access to domestic and local markets. The Revised National Seed Policy will avail high quality seeds and farming inputs and finally, the Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) will cushion the country against future grain deficits. Tanzania works towards galvanizing industrialization as Nigeria continues

push to diversify the economy through agriculture. Additionally, Nigerian experts have called for a review of policies for obtaining food processing permits amidst claims stringent policies deter potential small scale processors.

There is an overwhelming support for government policies and initiatives. In addition to an interest in enhancing productivity on farm, there are numerous initiatives aimed at increasing capacity through training and availing new inputs, and value addition. In Tanzania, the Parastatal Pensions Fund (PPF) and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) will set up a sugar cane factory with installed capacity to produce 200,000 tonnes of sugar in Mkulazi area, and has pledged to set up a sunflower processing plant. Additionally, Tanzania is working with Malaysia to promote palm oil production, The Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM) has pledged to boost shea nuts production. In Kenya, KES150 million (US1.4 million) worth of tractors were handed over to rice farmers and additionally, the government is actively engaged in promoting cotton farming, it has increased producer prices from US\$ 0.40 – 0.47, Meru Ginnery for example, with capacity for 20,000 kilograms per day only produces 1,000 tonnes per year and also increased mechanization

■ Donors & Funders

The FAO estimates on-farm and post-harvest activities account for US\$4 billion tons in losses per year. In the global south, this is attributed to limitations in agricultural infrastructure and techniques and marketing systems.

Strategic economic investment and development will have significant impact on food and agriculture security. The African Development Bank (AfDB) committed to invest US\$24 billion in agricultural transformative projects in Africa over 10 years. Specific AfDB in-country activity include; a US\$300 million agribusiness loan project, part of the bank's Empowering Novel Agri-Business-Led Employment for Youth in African Agriculture (ENABLE Youth) program, aimed to provide skills and opportunities to 800,000 youths in 20 countries, and is established by the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for

Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) in Nigeria, and a US\$20 million soft commodity finance deal which will enhance purchase of farm inputs and of soft commodities upon harvest from over 10,000 farmers and enhance basic processing of commodities for export by Meridian Consolidated in Southern Africa.

In Kenya, a US\$250 million (KES25.8 billion) loan from the World Bank will finance the agricultural sector's resilience efforts. Additionally, the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) has pledged EUR38 million (US\$41.3 million) for youth empowerment projects in Nigeria, Tunisia, Algeria, Cameroon and South Africa over three years and a US\$440,00 grant from the FAO to promote agriculture in the East African community (EAC).

■ Civil Society

Civil society is primarily engaged in on-farm practices aimed at enhancing productivity and capacity. The sector members are initiating partnerships and enhancing impact across all value chain stages for example, Feed the Future Malawi Ag Diversification Activity, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is a 5-year project that will benefit 300,000 smallholder households through providing financing, agricultural processing and training in new technology and climate smart agric-practices in soy, groundnuts and orange fleshed sweet potato (OFSP).

Similarly, the Potato Consortium made up of the National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK), Grow Africa and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (Agra), plans to engage all potato farming stakeholders. It is working on capacity building initiatives, access to market through engaging processors like Sereni Fries and setting up collection centres, partnering with financial institutions for funding, and engaging producers to form cooperative societies for group collaborations.

Finally, an industrialist in Nigeria has earmarked agricultural loans worth N100 million (US\$314,852) to be dispensed through the Nma Abia Cooperative Society.

■ Private Sector

The private sector is providing technical innovations for agricultural development, namely financial inclusion apps like FarmDrive; Storage solutions like Evaptainers & FreshBox; access to market through FreshPro and on-farm innovative approaches like John Deere's monitoring app.

Additionally, there are large scale outgrower schemes across the regions for example Dangote Rice and BUA Rice in Nigeria and Unilever in Kenya, in addition to various funding opportunities. Strategic partnerships have also been captured which include; Monsanto and 2Blades efforts to combat corn disease, and Yara and Bayer International ASA digital farming technology.

Country Summaries

■ Nigeria

Nigeria's federal government continues its contributions in promoting agriculture for economic diversification this quarter. The National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP), is a commitment to nationalize the African Union's 2014 Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAAP) aimed at

agricultural-led growth through strategic partnerships and enhanced activity across all agricultural value chain stages. There is support towards this government agenda, with outgrower schemes from various companies, enhanced local production for example fertilizer production spearheaded by the government, local processing, and furthermore, Fidelity Bank pledges to support ongoing efforts by providing innovative funding schemes and technical advisory services to micro small and medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) and commercial agribusiness projects.

■ Tanzania

Tanzania's Middle-Income Status plan by 2025 is crucial for agricultural growth. Specifically, its largest infrastructure projects; US\$7 billion standard gauge railway line, and US\$2.89 billion natural gas plant will enhance transportation of agricultural inputs & outputs and power industries. The government is availing agricultural funds and engaging others like the Malaysian government to enhance palm oil production.

■ Kenya

The Kenya government continues to incentivise cotton farming following an increment in producer prices from KES42 (US\$0.40) to KES50 (US\$0.47) per kilo. Furthermore, Kenya has received some large investments namely; US\$100 million for agricultural mechanisation, US\$35 million for modern warehouse development, and a US\$1

million grant to establish a banana processing plant and finally some technological innovations in-country are captured.

■ Malawi

The government marked the agricultural transformation agenda with developing three policies which will promote commercial agriculture, enhance storage capacities and promote quality inputs. Additionally, there is a lot of civil society activity in Malawi particularly aimed at improving productivity through training and capacity building; Feed the Future Malawi has initiated a 5year agricultural diversification project, whereas Meridian's AfDB funding will enhance on-farm and post-harvest activity.

2 Featured Stories

Featured stories are deeper dives into stories from the news scan that are particularly innovative, or that address or drive scale, or highlight major partnerships.

■ The African Development Bank (AfDB) approves US\$20 million to fund Meridian's soft commodity value chain operations in Southern Africa

"The African Development Bank has approved a US\$20 million facility to finance Meridian's operations in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. This is designed to provide pre and post-shipment finance along various stages of Meridian's soft commodity value chain operations. Specifically, the facility will be used to provide funding to purchase; farm inputs (mainly fertilizer), soft commodities from over 10,000 farmers and operations in basic processing for export."

About Meridian Consolidated

Established in 1970 to assist small scale farmers, Meridian focuses on production and supply of various agricultural inputs/outputs through a chain of vertically integrated subsidiaries in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The company currently employs over 4,200 employees and is one of Southern African Development Community (SADC)'s largest commodity aggregators, distributing over 250,000 metric tons of goods per annum throughout the region. Meridian is also a major buyer of soft commodities from small-scale farmers using its retail network of over 120 shops spread across rural areas. Among its shareholders is the African Agriculture Fund (AAF), in which AfDB owns a 20 percent stake."³ (Source: www.meridianconsolidated.com)

³ AfDB, (AfDB approves US \$20 million for Meridian's soft commodity value chain operations in Southern Africa) www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/afdb-approves-us-20-million-for-meridians-soft-commodity-value-chain-operations-in-southern-africa-16660/

■ YTO China-Africa Machinery Corporation (CAMACO) to implement a US\$4.5 billion agriculture infrastructure loan

Following a partnership with the Nigerian federal government, CAMACO is implementing a US\$4.5 billion loan provision towards agriculture infrastructure; specifically, tractors and irrigation infrastructure. The loan will be shared among states in three phases: the first phase is US\$1.5 billion followed by US\$2 and US\$1 billion.⁴

The government is discussing means of paying back the loan and has proposed exporting agricultural produce to China. Previously, the firm supplied 80,000 tractors to farmers in Sokoto, Zamfara, Adamawa, Kastina, Niger, Jigawa, Taraba, and Ebonyi states.

About YTO CAMACO

"CAMACO is a joint venture founded by YTO Group and China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund). CADFund was established in 2006 with the purpose of encouraging and supporting Chinese enterprises to invest in Africa. Supported by China's powerful manufacturing and R&D capability, CAMACO has always committed itself to be an important business platform for Chinese enterprises to the Africa market in the line of heavy machinery. YTO Group's leading products covers agricultural and construction machinery."⁵ (Source: www.camaco.com.cn)

⁴ Nnaibuife C., (FG, states to spend \$4.5bn on farm mechanisation) www.tribuneonline.com/fg-states-spend-4-5bn-farm-mechanisation
⁵ Camaco (www.camaco.com.cn)

■ Dangote Rice launches a 25,000 hectares of rice outgrower scheme

Dangote Rice Limited, a subsidiary of Dangote Group, launched a multi-million naira, 25,000 hectares, rice outgrower scheme in Northern Nigeria (Jigawa state - 5,000 hectares, Sokoto state 10,000 - hectares and Zamfara state - 10,000 hectares), with plans to produce 225,000MT of parboiled, milled white rice by the end of 2017, which will satisfy 4 percent of the Nigerian market demand within 1 year⁶.

"Dangote Rice plans to scale up to produce 1,000,000MT of milled rice in order to satisfy 16 percent of the domestic market demand for rice over the next five years. The initial 25,000 hectares will be farmed by nearly 50,000 outgrowers who are already organised into cooperative associations. Dangote Rice will establish raw material reception, drying, hulling, parboiling units and silos in strategic areas throughout the country near the outgrower communities."⁷

About Dangote Group

The Dangote Group is one of the most diversified business conglomerates in Africa with a hard-earned reputation for excellent business practices and products' quality. The Group's activities encompass manufacturing , refining and milling food products like; sugar, pasta, and noodles; manufacturing and importing cement, port management and haulage, and real estate⁸. (Source: www.dangote.com).

■ Science for Society (S4S) Technologies

S4S Technologies is a food preservation company that invents new food processing technologies. It uses patented sustainable food drying technology to bring preservative-

free food from farm to cities. One of its products, the Solar Conduction Dryer, is a solar powered dehydrator that can be used to naturally preserve perishable commodities (vegetables, fruits, spices, fish and variety of meats) for upto a year. The dryer is available in two models; a 1-1.5 kg loading capacity (wet material) with a 0.5m² area of dryer retails at US\$120 whereas a 10-12kg loading capacity with a 4m² area of dryer retails for US\$500. The solar dryer has been installed in 1,200 sites in India, France, Jamaica, Nepal, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Bangladesh.

Additionally, S4S Technologies supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has invented Cassava-Tech, cassava drying technology. This portable system can dry fresh cassava in one day reducing drying time from 5-15 days. It's hygienic process and moisture content, below 6 percent increase storage life up to a year. The Cassava-Tech retails at US\$200. Additionally, the ProVeggie, a new method of tomato preservation in fresh form (not dry) that increases the shelf life of tomatoes to one month without any need of cold storage. ProVeggie, which combines fundamental knowledge of how tomatoes respire and allows this respiration through specially designed packaging to create a stable product that will ease storage, transport and packaging allows tomato preservation. ProVeggie is designed to be remotely operated from any place and the machine is configured with a simcard.

Others include; HaldiTech, an electric-powered machine that dehydrates all tuber crops to retain 25-50 percent moisture; SmartDry, a mobile-controlled that dries special food products like cooked products and selected fruits-vegetables; FrostDry, the in house freeze dryer of S4S, which uses the fundamental physics of how to form and control ice crystals in freeze drying to enhance drying quality and optimize drying cost. Some of its partners include; USAID, UKAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Bayer among others S4S is also a Winner of the Dell Social Innovation Challenge, US\$60,000.

(Source: www.s4stechnologies.com / interview)

⁶ Dibia I.M., "Nigeria: Dangote Group invest heavily in rice production," www.africanews.com/2017/02/15/nigeria-dangote-group-invest-heavily-in-rice-production/, (March 22, 2017).

⁷ Awojulgbe O., "Dangote Rice targets 14 states, to empower local farmers," www.thecable.ng/dangote-to-produce-225000mt-of-rice-by-end-of-2017, (March 22, 2017).

⁸ Dangote Group (www.dangote.com)

■ The Federal Government approves N750B (~US\$2.4 billion) towards agricultural intervention

Nigeria's Federal Government has approved the sum of N750 billion (~US\$2.4 billion) towards enhancing agriculture in-line with its commitments to diversify the economy. The funds, to be dispensed through the Central Bank of Nigeria, Bank of Agriculture and Commerce Bank among others, will be channeled towards availing agricultural loans and financing various agricultural developments and programmes. Financial institutions have committed to a single-digit interest rate. On overall, the government plans to boost agriculture by increasing the percentage of exploited arable land in the country which is currently at 40 percent. It will also be used to reduce food imports which are presently estimated at N1.3 trillion (US \$6.5 billion)⁹

This is in-line with the government's Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) aimed to diversify the economy through agriculture i.e. to attract private sector investment in agriculture, reduce post-harvest losses, add value to local agricultural produce, develop rural infrastructure and enhance access to financial services and markets.¹⁰

■ Cros Agro Allied Ltd commits US\$65 million in Nigeria's potato industry

Cros Agro Allied Ltd, a Nigerian agribusiness company, has announced a commitment to invest US\$65 million in the country's potato sector. This will be channeled towards expanding its processing capacity through new equipment and farm machinery, and expanding existing potato production area to

900 hectares, which will not only supply the company's potato processing facilities but also increase production. Its industries are run by Rosenqvists Food Technologies AB¹¹.

Cros Agro will begin implementing this commitment through activities like; active engagement with value chain stakeholders in the potato sector, support for local farmers to access potato seeds, enabling participation in the company's outgrower scheme, and creating new opportunities for youth employment as the company expands its workforce. The new investment is expected to generate over 30,000 new jobs in the potato value chain, as well as outgrower opportunities for an additional 5,000 farmers. Further, the increased processing capabilities will serve not only the domestic market but also export markets in neighbouring countries, generating up to US\$300 million in foreign exchange.

About Cross Allied Ltd

Cros Agro is a diversified agribusiness company with 3,200 hectares of farmland in Kaduna State and Plateau State in northern Nigeria. To date, the company's farms have cultivated over 700 hectares of oil palm trees, ginger, banana, and potato. The company has also concluded plans to acquire coffee farms in the Kafanchan area of Kaduna State and in Jos, Plateau State¹².

About Rosenqvists AB

"Rosenqvists Food Technologies AB started in 2009 when a group of experts with a long experience and background from the development and design of processing lines for the potato processing and snack food industries joined Rosenqvists. The group of people came from PPM AB (Potato Processing Machinery AB), Kristianstad, Sweden, which for more than 40 years had used the manufacturing expertise of Rosenqvists to

⁹ Fatunji A., "Nigeria: FG approves N750bn agricultural intervention fund, aims food sufficiency," www.ecofinagency.com/agriculture/2802-36534-nigeria-fg-approves-n750bn-agricultural-intervention-fund-aims-food-sufficiency. (March 22, 2017)

¹⁰ AfDB, (Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Program - Phase 1 (ATASP-1), www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-and-Operations/Nigeria_-_Agricultural_Transformation_Agenda_Support_Program_-_Phase_I__ATASP-I_-_Appraisal_Report.pdf

¹¹ Rosenqvists Food Technologies AB, (www.foodtechnologies.rosenqvists.com)

¹² "Cros Agro Allied to invest \$65 million in Nigeria's potato sector," Grow Africa, www.growafrica.com/resources/cros-agro-allied-invest-65-million-nigeria%E2%80%99s-potato-sector. (March 23, 2017)

build the complete processing lines. The organoazation's goal is to create complete, value-added solutions for the food processing industry with a specific focus on processing lines for French fries and the snack food industry (complete lines for potato chips and frying systems for pellets, prefabricated chips, peanuts, batch fried chips, tortilla, wet pasta, etc.)"¹³ (Source: www.foodtechnologies.rosenqvists.com)

■ FarmDrive

"FarmDrive uses mobile phones, alternative data, and machine learning to close the critical data gap that prevents financial institutions from lending to creditworthy smallholder farmers. The company collects and aggregates alternative datasets namely; individual, social, agronomic, environmental, economic and satellite data from multiple sources to build credit scores for smallholder farmers in Africa. As a smallholder farmer, FarmDrive connects you to loans and financial management tools, all through your mobile phone, whereas FarmDrive offers financial institutions products and services to efficiently increase their agriculture portfolios, mitigate risks, and reduce costs."

FarmDrive has over 3,000 farmers registered on its platform, and has helped farmers access over KES13 million (US\$130,000) in loans.¹⁴ Some of FarmDrive's partners include; MercyCorps, The Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGap), Safaricom, Musoni Kenya, HotCash, Twiga Foods, Farm Shop among others. (Source: www.farmdrive.co.ke / interview)

■ FreshPro

FreshPro consists of engineers, agronomists and IT personnel who were initially deployed

to conceptualize and develop biomass-based renewable energy projects that used agricultural animal and plant waste. The realization of the various challenges faced by smallholder farmers which range from shocks resulting from diseases, unreliable weather patterns, and difficulty in accessing markets inspired the team's current activities.

FreshPro provides a data driven agricultural solution which serves producers and consumers in Kenya. The platform bridges the gap between buyers and sellers doing away with exploitative middlemen. The platform has a consumer-end application, which serves as an online store and a farm-end application which is essential in farm management. "Our objective is to convert agriculture from the dysfunctional apocalyptic mess into a wholesome interdependent and fluid ecosystem with the farmer and the customer as its key actors."

FreshPro consolidates data from consumer preferences informing on-farm activity e.g. crop varieties, which promotes its 'grow for the market' mantra and ensures zero waste. Currently FreshPro serves clients based in Nairobi, and has plans to expand to other major towns across the country. It is working with 110 farmers, located in Githunguri, Kiambu County which neighbors Nairobi. These farmers farm 84 different crop varieties. The platform however has 8,000 registered farmers and the consumer platform has over 1,000 users. When consumers place an order, FreshPro harvests, packages and delivers within 24 hours.

In addition to accessing markets, FreshPro provides extension services to its farmers, and avails all farm inputs. Farmers strictly practise organic farming have recorded 10-15 percent yield increment within the initial 3-4 months of farming. On average, its produce are 30 percent cheaper. FreshPro has partnered with Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KARLO) in a project aimed to motivate young people to actively

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Abooki p., (Safaricom Boosts Kenyan Startup, Farm Drive with Spark Venture Fund Investment) <http://pctechmag.com/2017/02/safaricom-boosts-kenyan-startup-farm-drive-with-spark-venture-fund-investment/>

participate in agriculture. (Source: www.freshpro.co.ke / interview)

■ Uasin Gishu county government to provide a potato cold room facility

The Uasin Gishu government, through a collaboration with Haanse Staalbouw, is providing a 300 feet long potato cold room facility. The facility is expected to provide storage between six months to a year. "It is one of the achievements that the county has made and will cushion farmers against losses as well as providing them an opportunity to store the produce as they seek good prices," stated deputy governor Daniel Chemno. He observed that the storage is made up of insulated walls that will be able to control aeration as it retains cool temperatures. He noted that the region has close to 2,000 potato farmers producing an average of 2 acres that translate to 100 bags mostly sold in the local markets within the county and western parts."¹⁵

About Haanse Staalbouw

"Hanse Staalbouw builds complete commercial properties for agricultural, industrial and non-residential purposes. The company is situated in the province of Zeeland, but operates throughout the whole of the Netherlands and abroad."¹⁶ (Source: www.hansestaalbouw.nl/en / interview)

■ A new tomato variety resists leaf curl virus and wilting

Mahindra Seeds has come up with TM 20 F1, a tomato hybrid that is least affected by leaf curl and other deadly wilts in tomatoes. This variety, marketed in Kenya by Gromost Seeds,

cushions farmers from dealing with losses associated with the above diseases, which tend to be hard to control without use of chemicals.

TM 20 F1 gives up to 30 tonnes of fruit per acre under good crop husbandry practices such as trimming, staking, weeding, among others. It is harvested for six months before yields start dwindling. The oval fruits have a firm coat that makes them have a long shelf life to allow for a lengthy selling period in case the market is poor.

The leaf curl virus is also associated with stiffening of leaves, stains on veins and chlorosis, a condition where veins turn yellow. All these contribute to reduced photosynthesis, leading to formation of small unmarketable fruits. Associated wilts cause withering of crops and death. These two diseases also attack black night shade, capsicum, cucumber, and peppers.

■ FarmPro partners with stakeholders to offer farming solutions

FarmPro is providing an integrated agribusiness solution for financing and supporting its farmers from farm to market. It has partnered with banks, agro-input companies and learning institutions to support farmers in producing quality goods. Currently, its 150 farmers in Kenya's Nakuru County can access agricultural loans from Bank of Africa (BoA) and Equity Bank, and agribusiness insurance from UAP Insurance. Additionally, Sygenta provides quality seeds to its farmers whereas its agronomists, in collaboration with scholars from Egerton University, offer technical/extension support to farmers. Finally, it collaborates with Massey Ferguson providing machinery to its farmers. FarmPro further runs commodity aggregations centers and sells the produce in various markets in Nairobi and its environs.¹⁷

¹⁵ Koskei S., "Potato storage facility to reduce losses in Uasin Gishu," www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2001228018/potato-storage-facility-to-reduce-losses-in-uasin-gishu%22,%22https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2001228018/potato-storage-facility-to-reduce-losses-in-uasin-gishu," (March 23, 2017).

¹⁶ Hanse Staalbouw (www.hansestaalbouw.nl/en)

¹⁷ Laban R., "Farmpro youths offer farmers production and marketing solutions" www.farmbizafrika.com/market/farmpro-youths-offer-farmers-production-and-marketing-solutions (23/07/2017)

About FarmPro

"FarmPro is a Kenyan based agro-business which provides knowledge, technologies and products that are geared towards climate smart agricultural practices mostly in East Africa. The mission of FarmPro Kenya is to promote good agricultural practices along the value chains through promotion of sustainable innovations and capacity building to small holder farmers in Kenya."¹⁸ (Source: www.farmpro.co.ke)

■ IFC and CDC invest US\$35 Million in Kenya's Economy through Modern Warehousing Development

"IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and CDC Group, the UK's development finance institution, will invest up to US\$35 million in Africa Logistics Properties Holding (ALP), a developer and manager of modern, grade-A warehousing, filling an important gap in logistics infrastructure in the region.

The investment; US\$10 million from IFC and US\$25 million from CDC, will be used for ALP's developments in Nairobi, Kenya, the trading hub of East Africa, where the lack of quality, international-standard warehousing space has long been a constraint on business growth and economic development. Quality warehousing improves operational efficiencies by reducing waste from poor storage, increasing the speed of product delivery and improving product security.

ALP is backed by Maris, a Nairobi-based private investment business focused on sub-Saharan Africa, which will invest US\$8 million. IFC and CDC are also joined in the project by Mbuyu Capital Partners, an Africa-focused, UK-based asset manager with an investment of up to US\$5 million, among others. "¹⁹ (Source: www.africawarehouses.com, www.ifc.org)

■ Small-scale farmers to benefit from KES126 million (US\$ 1.1 million) fund

"UK-funded FoodTrade East and Southern Africa (FoodTrade ESA) has awarded Classic Foods Limited of Kenya and Seba Foods Limited of Zambia KES126 million (US 1.1 million) to implement projects aimed at addressing challenges facing regional soybean value chains.

"This funding will help our team to go even further in correcting the soybean supply cycle from the farm to processors and finally to consumers by assisting farmers to become commercially oriented and adopt best farming practices," said Wachira Kariuki, Classic Foods' chief executive.

The grant is aimed at stimulating innovative business models driven by private sector companies and consortium to boost production, value addition, and cross-border trade in soybeans in East and Southern Africa. The money is being disbursed under the Soybean Challenge Fund which was launched in May 2016. The fund ran a competition in nine countries across East and Southern Africa.

"By working with the private sector and other development actors, we aim to promote the participation of smallholder farmers in structured trade. Both Classic Foods and Seba Foods offer partnerships which address market failures including the lack of access to good agriculture practices and inputs," he said.

About Classic Foods

Classic Foods is a processing and distribution company which targets smallholder farmers with capacity building for enhanced crop production and post-harvest management. The company aims to train 25,000 farmers on best practices by the end of 2017 and plans to reduce post-harvest losses by over 70 per

¹⁸ FarmPro (www.farmpro.co.ke)

¹⁹ International Finance Corporation (IFC)
www.ifcext.ifc.org/ifcext/pressroom/ifcpressroom.nsf/0/0A40475EE9AC045B852580DF0030CC95

cent and create wider market access for farmers.”²⁰ (Sources: www.classicfoods.co.ke)

■ Tanzania signs a US\$1 billion partnership to commercialize cassava farming

“Tanzania Agricultural Export Processing Zone Limited (TAEPZ) and Epoch Agriculture from China said they created an out-grower scheme that will ensure sufficient production of cassava for processing.

According to the agreement, the firm will also establish an industrial park comprising of factories to produce cassava flour, cassava starch, animal feeds, organic fertilizer and paper pulp, starting with three regions of Mtwara, Lindi and Coast, according to the firm’s chairperson Dior Feng. “The next phase will include production of industrial sugar and ethanol,” she said.

Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) executive director Godfrey Simbeye states that current statistics indicate that Tanzania produces 5.5 million tonnes of cassava every year, while TAEPZ will consume 2.5 million tonnes of dry cassava every year.”²¹

■ The Aga Khan Foundation to enhance agricultural value chains through its US\$3.3 million project

“The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is implementing Kilimo ni Biashara, an agro-business project aimed at catalyzing micro, small and medium enterprises along the food value chain, including input supply businesses, storage and collection enterprises, packaging services, and processing facilities such as drying, milling and safe abattoir for chicken.

²⁰ Andae, G., “Soybean farmers set to benefit from Sh126 million fund” www.businessdailyafrica.com/magazines/Soybean-farmers-set-to-benefit-from-Sh126-million-fund/1248928-3519896-xtj3kz/index.html. (March 23, 2017)

²¹ African Farming, “Chinese firm invests US\$1bn in Tanzanian cassava,” www.africanfarming.net/crops/agriculture/china-firm-to-invest-us-1bn-in-tanzanian-cassava, (March 23, 2017)

At least EUR3.1 million (US\$3.3 million) will be injected into the project. Target consumers include natural resource companies for local procurement of food and with local content plans, catering companies, hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, and other types of buyers (exporters, processors), according to a statement from AKF. This will create 200 enterprises and generate at least 5,000 jobs in Lindi and Mtwara regions in Tanzania.”²²

About the Aga Khan Foundation

“The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) has been implementing innovative, community-driven solutions to development challenges for more than 50 years. AKF focusses on four thematic areas: rural development, health, education and civil society. Its activities are intended to improve the quality of life of beneficiary communities by assisting in the struggle against hunger, disease, illiteracy, ignorance and social exclusion.”²³ (Sources: www.akdn.org)

■ The Pest Risk Information Service (PRISE) Project to create pest risk forecasting system

“The CABI-led Pest Risk Information Service (PRISE) project has been awarded £6.38 million (US\$7.8 million) in funding over five years by the UK Space Agency to reduce crop losses caused by pests in six sub-Saharan African countries, and improve farmer livelihoods.

The PRISE consortium includes Assimila Ltd, King’s College London and STFC Centre for Environmental Data Analysis, who will link their Earth Observation expertise with the Plantwise work undertaken by CABI. Partners also include the ministries of agriculture in the initial three countries of Kenya, Ghana and Zambia, delivering on-the-ground local knowledge to the project. PRISE will create a

²² Kasumuni, L., “Aga Khan’s Sh7bn project to generate new 5,000 jobs,” www.thecitizen.co.tz/News/Business/Aga-Khan-s-Sh7bn-project-to-generate-new-5-000-jobs/1840414-3796884-odofx7z/index.html. (March 23, 2017)

²³ The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), www.akdn.org

pest risk forecasting system based on Earth Observation and Plantwise data with the aim of providing risk forecasts and early warnings in time for smallholder farmers to take preventive action, increasing their resilience to pest outbreaks.

PRISE, one of 21 projects chosen to provide solutions to local issues in countries across Africa, Asia and Central and South America in areas including food security, drought, flooding and deforestation, is funded by the UK Space Agency's International Partnership Programme (IPP), a five-year, £152 million (US\$188.7 million) programme that partners UK space expertise with governments and organisations in emerging and developing economies. The aim is to deliver sustainable, economic and societal benefit using satellite data."²⁴

About CABI

"Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) is an international not-for-profit organization that improves people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment." (Source: www.cabi.org / interview)

■ Bayer and Yara Partnership to enhance on-farm productivity through technology

"Bayer AG and Yara International ASA (Yara) have entered into a software collaboration and technology license agreement to provide farmers worldwide with digital farming tools that help increase farm productivity, profitability and sustainability.

The purpose of the agreement is to develop new digital farming solutions as well as to increase the use of existing nitrogen application technology including Yara's N-Sensor and mobile imaging technology including the ImageIT.

²⁴CABI, "Delivering a pest risk information service to sub-Saharan Africa," www.cabi.org/news-and-media/2017/delivering-a-pest-risk-information-service-to-sub-saharan-africa, (March 24, 2017)

Under this agreement, Yara will grant Bayer access to its mobile imaging technology to determine the nutrient status and needs of plants with a smartphone application and Bayer will provide crop nutrition recommendations. This will further assist farmers worldwide to produce crops more efficiently."²⁵

About Bayer AG

"Bayer AG is a German life science company with a more than 150-year history and core competencies in research & development in health care and agriculture."²⁶ In 2016, Bayer took over American based manufacturer of GMO seeds, Monsanto in a US\$66 billion merger.²⁷ (Source: www.bayer.com)

About Yara

Norwegian based Yara International, produces chemical-based crop nutrition and emission control solutions. " Our knowledge, products and solutions grow farmers', distributors' and industrial customers' businesses profitably and responsibly while protecting the earth's resources, food, and environment."²⁸ (Sources: www.yara.com)

■ John Deere launches on-farm monitoring app

The John Deere Connect App, helps growers monitor, adjust and learn from the performance of their planter or sprayer while it moves through the field, Through the app, growers can monitor job quality in real time and better understand what's going on with their sprayer or planter in nozzle-by-nozzle and row-by-row detail. By visualizing job performance, operators can quickly and more

²⁵ African Farming and Processing, "Yara join to hands to deliver technology to farmers" www.africanfarming.net/crops/agriculture/bayer-yara-join-to-hands-to-deliver-technology-to-farmers (March 24, 2017)

²⁶ Bayer AG (www.bayer.com)

²⁷ Washington Post, "Bayer agrees to buy Monsanto in \$66 billion deal that could reshape agriculture" www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/bayer-agrees-to-buy-monsanto-in-66-billion-deal-that-could-reshape-agriculture/2016/09/14/4599de48-7aa6-11e6-ac8e-cf8e0dd91dc7_story.html, (March 24, 2017)

²⁸ Yara International (www.yara.com)

easily identify potential problems. Additionally, multiple map layers across production steps provide further insights for growers to consider that can improve their productivity and reduce operating costs. Finally, operators can seamlessly move the app from one John Deere machine to the next, and from one production step to another with confidence and familiarity due to its common user interface

Over time, Connect Mobile will include other operations, such as harvesting, the ability to add more data and to help growers make better-informed decisions with greater confidence."²⁹

About John Deere

John Deere, an American manufacturer of agricultural, construction, and forestry machinery, diesel engines, drive trains used in heavy equipment, and lawn care equipment. (Source: www.deere.com)

■ **2KUZE, a mobile market place for soft commodities**

2KUZE is a mobile market platform that enables farmers to buy, sell and receive payments for agricultural goods via feature phones. The platform brings together the benefits and security of mobile commerce and payments to farmers in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Its also promotes transparency as farmers are able to track the last price on commodities. 2KUZE is being launched in partnership with Cafédirect Producers Foundation, a UK-registered charity that is owned and led by smallholder farmers and working with 300,000 smallholder farmers globally³⁰. Currently, 2,000 small-scale farmers in Nandi Hills, Kenya are using the solution to sell their produce and working with farmer-

friendly agents to ensure they reach the right buyers for the best price.

About Cafédirect Producers Foundation

"The Cafédirect Producers Foundation (CPF) is an award winning NGO led by farmers for farmers. Since 2009, CPF has improved livelihoods and on-farm productivity for 60,000 smallholders and their families through a unique farmer-led model that invests in farmers' leadership and entrepreneurial ambition. CPF's peer-to-peer model is designed for scale. CPF's programmes are delivered through an international network of Lead Farmers, with an emphasis on investing in cohorts of women and youth leaders from farming communities. CPF's farmer-led model identifies 4 opportunities to improve smallholders' productivity, livelihoods and efficient engagement in food value chains: farmer-led training, market access, access to finance, and access to data.

Some of CFS's lead achievements include; winner of the 2014 UK Google Impact Challenge (£500k award) and 2012 Knight News Challenge for WeFarm, First UK charity to secure VC funding to spin off WeFarm from a charity project to an independent forprofit company, following a successful Series A investment round of US\$1.6 million, winner of the 2015 Global Resilience Challenge (a US\$1 million award) for strengthening resilience in smallholder value chains, funded by USAID, Rockefeller Foundation and SIDA."

About MasterCard Lab for Financial Inclusion

"Mastercard Labs for Financial Inclusion, the seventh in a series of Mastercard Innovation Hubs, the first Lab in Africa and the first to focus exclusively on financial inclusion, was set up to develop practical and cost-effective financial tools that expand access and help build stable. With the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Lab seeks to impact more than 100 million people by bringing together Mastercard's innovation and global financial inclusion capabilities under one roof, combining these with local expertise and insight. It is part of Mastercard's

²⁹ John Deere (New John Deere Connect Mobile App Helps Growers Monitor Spraying and Planting Equipment in Real Time), www.deere.com/en_US/corporate/our_company/news_and_media/press_releases/2017/agriculture/2017feb15_ConnectMobile.page

³⁰ Cafédirect Producers Foundation (www.producerfoundation.org)

broader commitment to connect 500 million people previously excluded from formal financial services through the use of public-private partnerships with governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.”³¹ (Sources: www.mastercard.us, www.producersfoundation.org /interview)

■ FreshBox provides walk-in solar-powered cold rooms

FreshBox is a walk-in solar-powered cold room that provides 24/7 storage and preservation of perishable foods. They are installed in markets and farms within the reach of farmers and retailers. Cold room temperature of 0°C to 15°C extend the freshness of fruits, vegetables and other perishable food from 2 days to 21 days making it easy for the retailers to buy in wholesale and sell till the last unit.

It employs women to hire out fruits and vegetables, storage crates to farmers and retailers at a rate of less than US\$1 per crate per day. The farmers then fill the crates with their perishable produce which is then stored in the FreshBox. A single FreshBox of size 5m*3m*2m can hold up to 100 crates. The company is currently running a pilot program with vendors in Ngara Market in Nairobi.

■ Evaptainers produces electricity-free cooling technologies

“Evaptainers combines time tested evaporative cooling techniques with modern design and production to create a lightweight and collapsible efficient cooling system that can be used in a wide variety of applications. By creating a refrigeration solution that runs on nothing other than sun and water we can create dependable cold-chain solutions without dependence on costly infrastructure.

This will allow small rural farmers to increase the percentage of their crops that get to market thereby improving their standard of living and putting fresher food in the hands of consumers.”

The Evaptainer extends the shelflife of foods from two days to two weeks in warm and dry climates. It retails under US\$30 and helps users save upto 40-50 DHS (US\$4-5). The company is currently testing its design in Morocco. Evaptainer has partnered with the National Geographic, USAID, and 3M for engineering expertise. Additionally the innovation has received numerous awards and recognitions including; people’s choice at FoodBytes SF, gold at 2017 Food + City Prize, Stage 1 grant from the US Agency for International Development through their Development Innovation Ventures Lab (USAID-DIV) among others.³² (Source: www.evaptainers.com /interview)

³¹ www.mastercard.us/en-us/about-mastercard/corp-responsibility/social-sustainability/the-mastercard-labs-for-financial-inclusion.html

³² Evaptainer (www.evaptainers.com)

3 News

News stories cover all the stories from the news scan on the focus countries related to Food Loss and Waste, covering the full value chain, and a number of overarching themes. The news stories are direct from the source and tagged - see legend. Note that links were all active at the time of publication but there is no guarantee that these links are maintained.

Legend

 = Farm

 = Processing

 = Storage

 = Transport

 = Policy

 = Access to Market

 = Access to Finance

 = Technology / Innovation

Private Sector

Fidelity bank will support irrigation in Nigeria

Nigeria
\$

"Fidelity Bank Plc., says only one percent of Nigeria's 84 million hectares of arable land is irrigated, and the bank is willing to support partners, who wish to take on projects in Agriculture to change this. The bank pledged to support ongoing efforts aimed at strengthening Nigeria's agricultural value-chain by providing innovative funding schemes and technical advisory services to micro small and medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) and commercial agribusiness projects..." ([Source story](#))

Transforming agriculture via more affordable local technology

Nigeria


"For many farmers, affordable machines are a major problem. At the moment, some companies are producing these machines in large scale to help large and small scale farmers meet the challenge of food production. An example is the Niji Group, founded in 1991, the company had grown into a successful and award-winning supplier

of metal fabricating machines and services. The list of food and agro processing plants that can be fabricate for food entrepreneurs include cassava starch, gari processing, plantain chips, yam flour and fufu processing..."

([Source story](#))

Ogbeh urges Nigerians to adopt safe food processing technology: Unveils 'healthy' fruits grinding machine

Nigeria
\$

"The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Audu Ogbeh, has urged Nigerians to adopt safe food processing technology, saying food safety and consumers' health need to be given prominent attention in Nigeria. He said this while reviewing the demonstration of the new model of grinding machine for soup condiments in his office in Abuja, recently. The managing Director of Niji Lucas Nigerian Ltd, Kola Adeniji, said the company's mindset for the construction of the electric grinding machine is to ensure that Nigerians have a healthy living by keying into the new technology in food processing..." ([Source story](#))

Federal Government, governors, and firm meet over \$4.5b Chinese agricultural loan

Nigeria



"The Federal Government has met with some governors and a Chinese company, YTO China-Africa Machinery Corporation (CAMACO), to fine-tune the implementation of the US\$4.5 billion agriculture infrastructure loan agreement with the Peoples Republic of China. The Chinese government had, during President Muhammadu Buhari's visit to China last year, promised to support agriculture in Nigeria with machinery, including tractors and irrigation infrastructure..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Dangote set to launch 25,000 hectares' rice outgrower scheme in Sokoto

Nigeria



"Dangote Rice, a subsidiary of Dangote Group is set to launch in Sokoto, Sokoto State its multi-million naira 25,000 hectares of rice Outgrower scheme with a prospect of hundreds of thousands of employment opportunities for the rural communities' inhabitants. President of the Group, Aliko Dangote disclosed at the weekend that the company will on Wednesday, flag off with a pilot project of 500 hectares by Gonroyo dam, in Goronyo community. Gonroyo dam is the second largest in the country, after Kainji. Sokoto State is second after Jigawa out of the 14 states where Dangote Rice plans to operate outgrower scheme..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#), [Source story](#))

BUA targets 1 million tonnes in rice processing capacity

Nigeria



"To further boost the federal government's agriculture drive, BUA Rice Ltd, owners of Nigeria's largest rice mill and a subsidiary of Nigeria's foremost foods and infrastructure conglomerate, BUA Group, yesterday had a

stakeholder session with the Kano Rice Farmers Associations to develop an efficient outgrowers scheme. The programme will involve the provision of improved seeds, technical expertise as well as BUA's milling and processing infrastructure in a programme that is expected to drive BUA current processing capacity from 200,000 tonnes to 1million tonnes within the next 4 years..." ([Source story](#))

Cros Agro Allied Ltd to invest US\$65 million in Nigeria's potato sub-sector

Nigeria



"Cros Agro Allied Ltd, a Nigerian agribusiness company, has announced a commitment to invest US\$65 million in the country's potato sector. In its investment commitment, Cros Agro has outlined plans to expand its existing potato production area to 900 hectares, which will supply the company's potato processing facilities, run by Rosenqvists Food Technologies AB and increase its production of French fries and potato flakes. The company plans to invest primarily in the expansion of its processing capacity through new equipment, and farm machinery to support increased production of potatoes..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Dangote's tomato paste factory is set to resume operations after a major tuta absoluta attack

Nigeria



"The Managing Director of the Dangote Tomato Processing Factory, Abdulkadir Kaita, disclosed that the company is set to begin the production of tomato pastes in February. This comes eight months after the company suspended operations due to lack of raw materials. "We expect that tomato farmers would have produced enough for the company to process, hence our decision to resume production in February," said Abdulkadir Kaita..." ([Source story](#))

Smallholder farmers are using technology to fix market, credit woes

Kenya



"These platforms allow farmers to concentrate on their core production function and worry less about marketing and selling their goods.

Fresh Pro, a digital platform that connects buyers and sellers, uses data to determine what is grown by its members. It bridges the gap between farmers and sellers by removing middlemen who are notorious for exploiting farmers.

FarmDrive provides a simple digital record-keeping platform that enables farmers to keep track of their farming activities using a mobile phone..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Cassava flour company offers farmers ready market

Kenya



"Cassava farmers can now fetch better prices by selling their produce to a new flour processing firm in Kiambu County. Some starch processing companies pay less than KES10 (US\$0.09) per kilo depending on the amount of starch in the tubers. Mhogo Foods is paying between KES50 and KES70 (US\$0.48 and 0.67) per kilo of cassava to farmers upon delivery of the produce. The company also makes arrangement for deliveries from far areas to cut on transportation costs for farmers..." ([Source story](#))

New tomato variety resists leaf curl virus and wilting

Kenya



"In dealing with losses caused by leaf curl and other deadly wilts in tomatoes, a seed company has come up with a tomato hybrid that is least affected by the diseases. TM 20 F1 is hybrid that has been developed to help farmers escape the losses to the above diseases, which are hard to control with chemicals. The variety from Mahindra Seed,

which is being marketed in Kenya by Gromost Seeds, has helped farmers in South Africa, India, among other countries in boosting production even with the threat of the ailments..." ([Source story](#))

FarmPro offer farmers production and marketing solutions

Kenya



"Three innovative youths have come up with an integrated agribusiness solution of financing and supporting registered farmers through the production chain up to the market. FarmPro founders Paul Ayieko, Maina Muchai and Kevin Maingi, have partnered with banks, agro-input companies and learning institutions to support farmers in producing quality goods that can fetch high prices in the target market. The 150 farmers under Farmpro in Nakuru County are financed by bank of Africa and Equity Bank based on a detailed analysis of their creditworthiness in addition to expected returns. FarmPro has also partnered with UAP Insurance in cushioning farmers against disasters. Additionally, farmers are supported in acquiring quality seeds from Syngenta, and finally agronomists from Egerton University offer technical support to the farmers in the production journey..." ([Source story](#))

Factory offers cassava farmers ready market for produce

Kenya



"Small-scale farmers who have been producing cassava for domestic consumption can sell their crop to the recently opening of Kiara Agro Limited factory in Machakos County. The factory crushes at least 15 tonnes of cassava to extract starch for re-packaging and selling to local consumers. Kiara Agro Ltd Managing Director Pina Patel says the factory is ready to help farmers in producing high quality cassava to meet its demand while

providing a source of revenue to the families..." ([Source story](#))

Farmers get 80 percent asset financing

Kenya



"Farmers can access up to 80 percent machinery financing with the entry of US-based tractor and other implements manufacturer, John Deere. To qualify, marketing officer Vincent Omondi said a farmer only needs a bank statement for eight consecutive months demonstrating financial flow. "Farmers only need to raise 20 percent of the total amount for the given machine. CFC Bank, which has partnered with John Deere, gives the rest upon agreed repayment terms," he said..." ([Source story](#))

Unilever signs oil supply deal with 500 Kenyan farmers

Kenya



"Unilever plans to engage 500 farmers in Kenya to grow canola, a plant whose seeds the company uses to produce its flagship margarine brand Blue Band. The consumer goods maker said it has set a target to locally source at least 3,000 tonnes of canola oil by the end of 2017, nearly half of its annual demand of 7,000 tonnes. Unilever, working with Dutch non-profit firm SNV, and consultancy firm Agventure Ltd, will jointly invest KES23 million (US\$219,231) to recruit and train farmers in Uasin Gishu and Nakuru to grow canola, also known as rapeseed..." ([Source story](#))

Soybean farmers set to benefit from KES126 million (1.2 million) fund

Kenya



"Local small-scale soybean farmers are set to benefit from Sh126.4 million (US\$1.2 million) awarded to two agribusiness companies. UK-funded FoodTrade East and Southern Africa (FoodTrade ESA) has awarded Classic Foods Limited of Kenya and Seba Foods Limited of

Zambia the money. The two companies are supposed to implement projects aimed at addressing challenges facing regional soybean value chains. Classic Foods is a processing and distribution company which targets smallholder farmers with capacity building for enhanced crop production and post-harvest management. The company aims to train 25,000 farmers on best practices by the end of 2017 and plans to reduce post-harvest losses by over 70 per cent and create wider market access for farmers..." ([Source story](#))

Chinese firm invests US\$1 billion in Tanzanian cassava

Tanzania



Tanzania has signed a US\$1 billion partnership agreement with a Chinese firm to commercialise cassava farming and processing. The move is expected to help growers who have been struggling with the challenge of accessing reliable markets. Tanzania Agricultural Export Processing Zone Limited and Epoch Agriculture (TAEPZ) from China said they created an out-grower scheme that will ensure sufficient production of cassava for processing. According to the agreement, the firm will also establish an industrial park comprising of factories to produce cassava flour, cassava starch, animal feeds, organic fertilizer and paper pulp, starting with three regions of Mtwara, Lindi and Coast, according to the firm's chairperson Dior Feng..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

US Phillip Morris International to set up factory in Moro

Tanzania



"American tobacco giant Philip Morris International Inc will set up a next generation tobacco facility in Morogoro, ending hopes of a first of its kind in Tabora region. Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Minister Dr. Charles Tizeba announced yesterday in the National

Assembly that the investor had preferred Morogoro over Tabora where it was initially allocated vast land for the massive investment. He did not reveal the total investment cost and expected annual production volume but insisted the investor's choice was Morogoro...." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Bayer, Yara join to hands to deliver technology to farmers

Multiple



"Bayer and Yara International ASA (Yara) have entered into a software collaboration and technology license agreement to provide farmers worldwide with digital farming tools that help increase farm productivity, profitability and sustainability. The purpose is to develop new digital farming solutions as well as to increase the use of existing nitrogen application technology including the proven N-Sensor™ and mobile imaging technology including the ImageIT™. Under this agreement, Yara will grant Bayer access to its mobile imaging technology to determine the nutrient status and needs of plants with a smartphone application and Yara will provide Crop Nutrition recommendations. This will further assist farmers worldwide to produce crops more efficiently..." ([Source story](#))

John Deere launches real-time sprayer and planter monitoring app

Multiple



"John Deere has introduced the new Connect Mobile App with the aim of helping growers monitor, adjust and learn from the performance of their planter or sprayer while it moves through the field. With the app, growers can monitor job quality in real time and better understand what is going on with their sprayer or planter in nozzle-by-nozzle and row-by-row detail..." ([Source story](#))

Walki develops new biodegradable mulching paper

Multiple



"Walki, a leading global producer of technical laminates and protective packaging materials, has developed the first-ever organic mulching solution that is based on natural biodegradable fibers instead of plastic. Mulch is a layer of material applied to the surface of an area of soil. It is designed to conserve moisture, improve the fertility and health of the soil and control weed growth. Soil mulching also reduces the need for pesticides, fertilizers and irrigation..." ([Source story](#))

New application to predict weather

Multiple



"Farmers can now get weather updates straight on their mobile phone following the launch of a new app. Known as mFarms, the app enables farmers to use technology to predict the weather patterns so that they can prepare for the planting seasons or in case of extremities..." ([Source story](#))

Monsanto and 2Blades Foundation Collaborate to Combat Corn Diseases

Multiple



"Monsanto Company and 2Blades Foundation (2Blades) have formed a collaboration to discover novel sources of genetic resistance to devastating corn diseases. 2Blades will deliver these resistance genes in collaboration with The Sainsbury Laboratory (Norwich, UK), the leading global institute for research on plant-pathogen interactions and long-term partner of 2Blades..." ([Source story](#))

We could stop tons of food losses by scaling these African-made low-tech cooling units

Multiple



"FreshBox, a solar-powered, walk-in cold room that provides retailers with storage facilities to preserve perishable products.

Operating for five months, the project offers vendors and farmers refrigeration services for 70 Kenyan shillings (\$0.68) a crate per day. Since its establishment, FreshBox has engaged the services of 10 different vendors in Nairobi, and four different farmers in the neighboring Kiambu County. Mbindyo has also reached out to hundreds of farmers and retailers who say they are willing to purchase his services. "I am hoping to expand our capacity, and to have a number of units across Nairobi to attract more clients," he said...." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Built by the son of a farmer, this US\$90 solar dryer can preserve meats, fruits and veggies for up to a year

Multiple



"Started in 2013, S4S developed a solar conductor dryer that can be used to preserve perishable commodities for up to a year. Its food-drying technology helps extend the shelf life of produce without adding any preservatives to the mix. Apart from vegetables, fruits and spices, the dryer can also be used to preserve meats and seafood.

The solar dryer, priced under US\$90, has been installed in 1,200 sites so far. Apart from India, the dryer is used in countries such as France, Jamaica, Nepal, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Bangladesh..." ([Source story](#))

Using high-resolution satellites to measure African farm yields

Multiple



"Stanford researchers have developed a new way to estimate crop yields from space, using high resolution photos snapped by a new wave of compact satellites.

The approach, detailed in the February 13 issue of the journal of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, could be used to estimate agricultural productivity and test intervention strategies in poor regions of the world where data is currently extremely scarce...." ([Source story](#))

Public Sector

Federal Government begins domestication of the Malabo Declaration agriculture

Nigeria



"The Federal Government disclosed that the domestication of the Malabo Declaration in the agricultural sector has started, and is in line with the Green Alternative policy. This was made known by a representative from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development at a 3-day meeting organized by the African Union (AU) and New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) dubbed 'Expert Panel to Draft New Plan for Achieving Economic Diversity through Major Investments in Agriculture'. The key purpose of the meeting was to review the plan for making crop, livestock and fisheries the centerpiece of Nigeria's economic development agenda. The effort also will ensure Nigeria's National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) aligns with commitments contained in the AU's 2014 'Malabo Declaration', which seeks to cut poverty rates in half by 2025 through agriculture-led economic growth..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Federal Government launches strategy to monitor progress in agriculture

Nigeria



"The Federal Government has launched the Joint Sector Steering Committee to provide a platform to assess the performance and results of the agriculture sector. A statement on the ministry read that, the federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with major stakeholders is charged with the responsibility of developing policy in order to create a conducive environment to stimulate greater private sector participation in agriculture to enable the business side assume its appropriate role as the engine of economic growth. The purpose of the policy document is to provide approach to building an agribusiness ecosystem that will stem the tide of food importation through import substitution so as to earn significant foreign exchange from agriculture..." ([Source story](#))

2 million people targeted for agricultural empowerment training scheme in South West Nigeria

Nigeria



"The project director of Lagos State Agricultural Empowerment Training Scheme, Mr Oluwaseyi Bamigbade, on Monday said over two million people were being targeted for the training in the South- Western geographic political zone, noting that this was part of measures in place to ensure that there was food security in the country. According to him, the training will enable the participants to deepen their knowledge in agriculture in areas such as soilless vegetable production, cassava, wheat and rice processing, including marketing techniques both locally and internationally..." [\(Source story\)](#)

10,000 youths to receive financial aid from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)

Nigeria



"No fewer than ten thousand youths and other small-scale farmers are to benefit from the Ogun State and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s Anchor Borrowers Program aimed at creating employment for youths and boosting agricultural production and food security in the state. The State Coordinator and Special Assistant to the Governor on Agriculture, Mr. Tosin Ademuyiwa disclosed this in Abeokuta during the program flag-off, stating that this would empower youths and other citizens. He explained that the program was to give financial support and boost the production of cassava, rice and maize adding that attention would also be given to fisheries and poultry farming..." [\(Source story\)](#)

Outbreak of maize disease in Kaduna already curtailed — Official

Nigeria



"The Kaduna State Government, on Saturday said it had contained the 'Stem-borer worm' scourge destroying stems and leaves of irrigated maize in the state. Malam Dahiru Abdullahi, the Information Officer of the state Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, disclosed this to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Kaduna. NAN recalls that the outbreak of the Stem-borer

worms reportedly affected Maize irrigated farms in many states including Kaduna at the beginning of the 2017 dry season farming. Abdullahi, who confirmed that the disease outbreak had affected many irrigated maize farms, however, said it had been contained by Extension Services Staff and the farmers themselves..." [\(Source story\)](#)

Federal Government approves N750 billion (US\$2.4 million) intervention funds for agricultural sector

Nigeria



"The Federal Government has approved the sum of N750 billion (US\$2.4 million) Agricultural Intervention Fund to bolster the sector towards food sufficiency and with the aim to diversify the economy. Acting Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo disclosed this during the inauguration of Senior Executive Course (SEC) 39 with the theme "Science, Technology and Innovation for the Development of Agriculture and Agro-Allied Industries in Nigeria" at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru Plateau State. Professor Osinbajo said the administration is committed to revamping the agricultural sector through the application of science, technology and innovation to the development of agriculture and agro-allied industries..." [\(Source story\)](#)

NEXIM to support Nigeria in reaching full potentials in shea production

Nigeria



"The Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM) said it was ready to support the country to boost its shea nuts production capacity. This was disclosed by the acting Managing Director of NEXIM, Bashir Wali. According to him, the bank wants to provide "funding for increased proactive measures to reposition agricultural products, such as shea, as part of its non-oil export sector interventions in the agro-processing sub-sector." The lender's initiative aims to help respond to global demand for shea which is expected to grow to over \$30 billion by 2020 from \$10 billion now. In addition to this, Wali said the crop has great potential to generate foreign exchange revenue and create jobs..." [\(Source story\)](#), [\(Source story\)](#)

NIHORT empowers farmers, youth on food security, and waste management for wealth creation

Nigeria



"The National Horticultural Research Institute, in fulfilling its drive to develop horticultural produce and products for local and export markets with attendant health, industrial raw materials and employment generation benefits, organized a two-day training workshop for more than 200 people in Ibadan, Oyo State, towards increased income and prosperity. The training workshop, which covered theoretical and practical stages of mushroom, ginger, turmeric processing and marketing; and waste utilization for crop production and mushroom farming, was, according to NIHORT's Director of Research and Head of Research Outreach Department, Dr. Lawrence Olajide Taiwo, organised in tandem with the institute's goal to reduce hunger, ailments and poverty in Nigeria..." ([Source story](#))

30,000 farmers to produce soya beans in Kebbi

Nigeria



"Over 30,000 farmers have been sponsored by the Kebbi state government and a private company in Lagos to produce soya beans in nine local government areas of the state. The Commissioner for Agriculture, Alhaji Garba Muhammed Garba said another 10,000 farmers across the areas of Danko/ Wasagu, Zuru, Fakai, Ngaski, Shanghai, Yauri, Koko/Besse and Bagudo are being sponsored to produce soya beans, maize and sorghum..." ([Source story](#))

Kebbi procures 300,000 tons of fertilizer, and 100 tractors to boost agriculture

Nigeria



"In an effort to increase food production, the Kebbi State Government has procured 300,000 tons of fertilizer for farmers under its short and long term plans. The State Commissioner of Agriculture, Alhaji Muhammad Garba, disclosed this to newsmen during a ministerial briefing organized in Birnin, Kebbi.

According to him, within the next 3 weeks, the state will be receiving the first consignment of 1,000,000 tons of fertilizer under the arrangement made with Kano, Jigawa, Sokoto,

Zamfara and Katsina states while the remaining 200,000 tons is expected from Morocco under the arrangement made between Nigeria and the Moroccan government. He added that the state government has also procured 100 tractors, 1000 ox-drawn ploughs and 100 rice threshers in order to ease drudgery in farming by farmers in the state. 100 motorcycles have also been purchased for extension workers in the state..." ([Source story](#))

Movement of grains by rail to reduce transportation cost by 20 percent

Nigeria



"In line with the federal government's focus on making agriculture a key anchor of economic diversification, the Nigerian Incentive Based Risk Sharing for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) in partnership with the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has unfolded a scheme to reduce the cost of transporting grains from the North to the South by over 20 percent. The Managing Director of NIRSAL, Aliyu Abbati Abdulhameed, disclosed this in Funtua, Katsina State, shortly after a consignment of 800 tonnes of soya beans left Funtua, in the first stage of the initiative, for Apapa port to formally launch the scheme..." ([Source story](#))

Federal Government flags off presidential fertilizer initiative to boost production and lower prices

Nigeria



"The Federal Government has approved the sum of N750 billion Agricultural Intervention Fund to bolster the sector towards food sufficiency and with the aim to diversify the economy. Acting Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo disclosed this during the inauguration of Senior Executive Course (SEC) 39 with the theme "Science, Technology and Innovation for the Development of Agriculture and Agro-Allied Industries in Nigeria" at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru Plateau State.

Professor Osinbajo said the administration is committed to revamping the agricultural sector through the application of science, technology and innovation to the development of agriculture and agro-allied industries...." ([Source story](#))

Expert Seeks Removal Of Stringent Measures For Small Processors Permit



"An expert in the agriculture sector, Mrs. Chi Tola has called for review of stringent policies for obtaining food processing permit by small holder farmers who are itching to go into processing activities. Tola said there is the need to review several policies and monitor the activities of some of the food regulatory bodies in Nigeria. She said that food processing industry in Nigeria is increasingly now being seen as a potential source for driving the rural economy as it brings about synergy between the consumer, industry and agriculture..." ([Source story](#))

Kenya receives US\$100 million from India for agricultural mechanization deal



"President Uhuru Kenyatta and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed and exchanged a bilateral agreement to loan US\$100 million to Kenya to assist with agricultural mechanization. Uhuru Kenyatta and Narendra Modi signed a credit deal to fund Kenya's aim to mechanize its agricultural sector. The deal was signed in New Delhi on 11 January. Kenya is hoping to increase the number and the value of its exports to India by shifting its export base from agriculture and mineral based products to value added manufacturing products. The overall aim is that in partnership with India, the technology transfer will assist Kenya's capacity to add value to its natural resources vis a vis products..." ([Source story](#))

NCPB to sell grain after two years in bid to eliminate post-harvest losses



"The government has announced plans to overhaul grain management in the country to minimize post-harvest losses. According to Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Willy Bett, the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) will in future hold grain for a maximum of two years before disposing it or selling to animal feed millers. The focus of post-production activities for grains should be on adapting the new

technologies and ensure the stock has specific environments and are economically viable..." ([Source story](#))

The European Union (EU) gives KES110 million (US\$1 million) grant for a banana processing plant



"The European Union (EU) has given Kisii county government a KES110 million (US\$1 million) grant to set up a banana processing plant. This will be a major boost for banana production in the county and the surrounding areas as the plant is expected to improve value addition. It will also boost agricultural production and create employment in the region.

"The county government's objective is to improve the quality of bananas produced, revive banana co-operative societies and boost value addition," said Mr. Sangwe. The official said they would train various groups in refining bananas into forms that were competitive. He noted the factory was expected to make over KES1.5 billion (US\$1.4 million) annually. Currently, there is only one banana processing plant in the region, which produces cakes, crisps and flour..." ([Source story](#))

Kisumu rice farmers to get KES150 million (US\$ 1.4 million) tractors from government



"Rice farming in Kisumu is set for a major boost after national government handed farmers KES150 million (US\$ 1.4 million) worth of equipment to help commercialize the crop. Agriculture cabinet secretary Willy Bett is expected to officially hand over 25 tractors to the Ahero and West Kano irrigation schemes on Wednesday, marking the end of a two-year payment stalemate that saw the ministry threaten to withdraw. For the rice farmers, the 25 tractors, rotavators, ridgers, levelers, trailers and disc ploughs, are the much needed turning point since some were already abandoning the crop due to high production costs. Less than half of the 2,500 acres of the scheme is under use due to high cost hiring private machinery..." ([Source story](#))

Cotton prices up in raft of incentives for sector



"Cotton farmers are set to earn more from the crop after the government increased producer prices per kilogram from KES42 to KES50 (US\$0.40 to \$0.48). The move is intended to woo growers who have abandoned the crop, forcing ginneries to mill at below capacity. The Fibre Crops directorate, which manages cotton and sisal in the country, said the decision to review the price was reached at as one of the many incentives that the government has lined up to revive the sector. Meru ginnery, which has a production capacity of 20,000 kilograms per day is just able to produce 1,000 tonnes a year leaving a huge capacity unutilized. Head of the directorate Anthony Muriithi said apart from offering farmers good prices, they have also secured them a ready market for their produce. Farmers have entered into contract farming with the ginneries and spinners, ensuring that their crop is bought as soon as it is ready..." ([Source story](#))

A Kenyan irrigation application aims to cut water waste and crop losses



"The sensor-based automatic irrigation system app, launched last year, uses sensors placed throughout a field to determine if soil is moist enough. If it's too dry, a control unit uses solar panels to open the valve of a water tank, then close it again when the soil is damp enough. Initially tested at Meru university of Science and Technology's own farm, the irrigation system is now being rolled out to the public..." ([Source story](#))

An inside look at Tanzania's grand plan to attain middle-income status by 2025



"Tanzania is looking to raise US\$45.89 billion to finance its second industrialization plan, which will see it increase its development spending to US\$27.66 billion. This is part of its plans to become a middle-income nation by 2025. The government hopes to raise US\$45.89 billion from taxes amidst plans to reduce reliance on donor

funding, which has been declining over the years. The new growth plan is more liberal and seeks to open up key areas of the economy as the country shifts to boost its infrastructure projects by completing the US\$7.3 billion new Central Railway Line to standard gauge and the US\$2.89 billion Mtwara Liquefied Natural Gas Plant. Other projects lined up are the construction of the US\$7.03 billion Mtwara-Liganga-Mchuchuma SGR Line; the construction of Liganga industrial park at a cost of US\$3.54 million; the construction of Mtwara Petrochemical Special Economic Zone at US\$4.82 million and the construction of Bagamoyo Special Economic Zone at US\$9.64 million...." ([Source story](#))

TZ, Malaysia to increase palm oil production



"The Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), the Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ZNCCIA) and the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOD) will partner through knowledge and technology sharing on how to increase production of palm trees. Tanzanian businesses have partnered with the Malaysian government in the project to promote the growing of palm trees and save millions of Tanzania's foreign currency reserves that is spent on importing the products, it was announced yesterday. MPOD director Rosidah Radzian said if well managed the available palm trees in the country can produce sufficient cholesterol-free edible oil to satisfy the demand for the entire local market..." ([Source story](#))

TZ\$50 million village grants for release soon



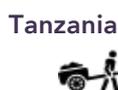
"If all goes well, the government will start disbursing the promised TZ\$50 million to each village, effective next April and prospective beneficiaries have been told to form productive groups to qualify for the grants. The government will grant each village TZ\$50 million, translating into a 500 billion budget for nearly 10,000 villages in the country..." ([Source story](#))

Women's agro-business efforts to be supported



"The government has pledged to provide modern agricultural inputs including tractors to women practicing modern agriculture through the Centre for Advancement of Women in Agriculture in Tanzania (CAWAT) to participate fully in adopting agri-business practices. Additionally, the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) committed to allocate TZS600 million for empowering women through CAWAT. Japan and Switzerland Embassies in Tanzania, expressed their willingness to support various projects undertaken by CAWAT. Other institutions that pledged to support CAWAT were PPF Pension Fund, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and Yetu Microfinance that promised to provide agricultural loans to CAWAT members..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Tanzania gets 14 new high-yield potato seed varieties for trials



"The Netherlands has offered 14 high-yield European potato seed varieties to Tanzania for testing, as the country struggles to increase yield per hectare of the popular crop. The project is expected to cost around Euro 388,000 or 700 million (US\$461,545 to \$751,499). Last year, Tanzania and Netherlands signed a contract to allow the seed varieties to enter Tanzania for initial growing and certification..." ([Source story](#))

A sugar processing plant to be set up



"A planned sugar plant - joint project of two public pension funds PPF and NSSF - is billed to significantly offset demand and eventually lower prices of the sweetener when production peaks at an annual 200,000 tons. Mkulazi Holdings Limited, set up by the two agencies, will invest in a sugar factory and sugarcane plantations at Mkulazi Ward, Ngerengere Division in the region, covering an area of over 63,000 hectares in a formerly government-owned far. The Mkulazi plant will have installed capacity to produce 200,000 tonnes of sugar and create 100,000

direct and indirect jobs...." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Tarime District introduces plan to promote sugarcane farming



"Tarime District plans to introduce sugarcane farming as well as building a sugar processing plant in support of government's industrialization initiative. District Commissioner Glorious Luoga said the project is expected to create 5,000 direct jobs and around 10,000 indirect opportunities in the area. "About 2,000 farmers will also be assisted to cultivate sugarcane, he said, when he was announcing the plan to reporters recently..." ([Source story](#))

Tanzania picks Mota-Engil, Yapi Merkezi to build US\$1.1 billion railway



"Tanzania picked Turkish construction company Yapi Merkezi and Portuguese building firm Mota-Engil to build a railway at a cost of more than EUR1 billion (US\$1.1 billion) to connect the East African country with landlocked neighbours, according to media reports. The contract states that the firm will build about 400 kilometers (249 miles) of railway track that will link Tanzania with Burundi and Rwanda. Mota-Engil and Yapi Merkezi hold a 50 percent stake each in the winning group..." ([Source story](#))

Civil Society

In Davos, UNDP Goodwill Ambassadors unveiled a chocolate bonbon dessert inspired by a social project with the SDG Fund in Nigeria



"*Bombón Kaduna*, comes from the Rocas' collaboration with the Sustainable Development Goals Fund in Kaduna, Nigeria. Since their appointment as UNDP Goodwill Ambassadors in January 2016, the Roca Brothers have been working with the SDG Fund in sustainable food initiatives and projects to tackle hunger and undernutrition. Bombón Kaduna makes use of

tomato and pepper, two key ingredients used generously and ubiquitously in local cuisine in Nigeria where we will be working to help local communities over the next three years”, explained Joan Roca. “We are exploring food preservation techniques, such as the dried tomatoes used in this chocolate that can reduce food waste and create new market opportunities for young farmers”. The Rocas also make use of fair trade chocolate “which comes from an environmental project we support with cocoa farmers in Piura, Peru, where as in many developing countries, agriculture represents the most important source of livelihoods...” ([Source story](#))

Smallholder farmers team up to confront climate change impacts

Kenya



“Farmers in Mwingi, a remote, arid and impoverished region in Kitui County, Kenya have been experiencing unreliable rain patterns and problems associated with droughts. But thanks to formation of a community-based organisations (CBOs) such as Kitum Community-based Organisation, with 176 members, the farmers are now devising innovative ways of coping up with climate change-related impacts that inflict untold sufferings upon them. To help farmers address the various challenges, an international development charity Farm Africa has recently begun working with the Mwingi CBO farmers group and seven other groups in the area. They are being trained in farming techniques to conserve water and soil. They are also being given access to high-quality seeds which are more resistant to pests and diseases, and which grow drought-tolerant crops such as sorghum. In addition, farmers groups will be supported to access markets where they can join sell their harvests for a better price...” ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Chinese Mango Festival offers Kenya export market

Kenya



“China has opened its market for more than 20,000 farmers to export mangoes during the country’s 18-month-long festival. The Chinese

globally commemorate a 1968 communist leader, who sent the fruit to workers, after receiving a carton of mangoes from a visiting Pakistan foreign affairs minister. During the Chinese Mango Festival, more than 23,000 tonnes of the fruit will be exported in respect to demand. The Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in East Africa William Zhuo said offering Kenyan farmers an alternative export market is a direct way of “putting money into their pockets...” ([Source story](#))

15,000 farmers to benefit from Rockwood-WVT initiative

Tanzania



“Denmark’s Rockwool Foundation Research Community, through its partnership with Rural Initiative for Participatory Agricultural Transformation (RIPAT), a scheme for improving farming in rural areas, is partnering with World Vision Tanzania to transform the lives and production activities of more than 15,000 smallholder farmers in Tanga, Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions. The project, to be executed through the now co-owned Research Community and Organisational Development Associates (RECODA), targets to reduce poverty, hunger, malnutrition through improved crop cultivation and better animal husbandry...” ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

New information service to help farmers control pests

Multiple



“Farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa are to benefit from a new project that aims to develop early warning system to help cut crop losses resulting from pests. The project will forecast pest outbreaks using cutting-edge space infrastructure, Earth observation data and state-of-the-art modelling techniques.

The project called Pest Risk Information Service (PRISE) is led by the UK-based Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) with £6.38 million (almost US\$8 million) funding over five years from the UK Space Agency...” ([Source story](#))

East African Community (EAC) lands KES980 million (US\$440,000) to promote farming

Multiple



"The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will grant the East African Community some US\$440,000 (about sh981 million on the prevailing exchange rate) to promote urban and rural agriculture and agribusiness. The overall plan is to improve youth employment in the bloc through laying down strategies to assist the jobless people, including university graduates and the semi-skilled. The agreement according to a statement issued by the secretariat, allows FAO and EAC to find a path for young people to secure decent work opportunities as well as explore innovative e-business models in the agricultural sector..." ([Source story](#))

ACAI sets up 563 trials in Nigeria and Tanzania to tackle cassava agronomy issues

Multiple



"The African Cassava Agronomy Initiative (ACAI) in 2016 established 563 trials across Nigeria and Tanzania to help unlock the agronomy of cassava. The trials were part of the broader initiative by the research community led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) with its international and national partners to increase the productivity of cassava and improve the livelihoods of resource-poor farmers. Researchers are hoping that the trials will resolve the puzzle around fertilizer recommendation, best planting practices, intercropping, and scheduled planting of cassava to ensure all year cultivation and harvesting of the root crop..." ([Source story](#))

commercial approaches. Three policies have been developed to help strengthen the agriculture sector; the national agriculture policy, the revised national seed policy, and management guidelines for the strategic grain reserve. The national agriculture policy promotes commercialization to help sustain growth in the agriculture sector, which is the foundation of Malawi's economy..." ([Source story](#))

NEPAD to invest EUR38 million (US\$40.8 million) in youth empowerment in Nigeria, others

Multiple



"New Partnership for Africa Development says it will invest €38m (US\$40.8 million) in youth empowerment in five African countries in three years. The Director NEPAD Continental, Estherine Fotabong, disclosed this during a courtesy visit to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation on Monday in Abuja. She said that the project would focus on skill acquisition for the youth of the benefitting countries namely Nigeria, Tunisia, Algeria, Cameroon and South Africa. She said that Nigeria would be used as the pilot country for the programme, adding that 40 percent of the youths in Africa were unemployed..." ([Source story](#))

Government to launch US\$300 million loan project for young farmers

Multiple



"The Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL), says it will establish a US\$300 million agribusiness loan project for young farmers across the country. NIRSAL is an arm of the Central bank of Nigeria (CBN) that provides agribusiness investments credit risk guarantees to help drive economic development through agriculture. The organisation also helps to reduce credit risk in agricultural lending..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Donor / Funders

New Policies to Help Transform Malawi's Agriculture Sector

Malawi



"With support from the World Bank and other donors, the Malawi government has been developing a new national agricultural policy to refocus smallholder subsistence farming to

Seefor to Train 250 Delta Youths in Hybrid Tomato Farming

Nigeria



"The State Employment and Expenditure For Results Project (SEEFOR), an intervention project of the World Bank and the European Union (EU),

says it will train 250 Delta youths in hybrid tomato farming. The Coordinator of SEEFOR in Delta, Mr Benson Ojoko, disclosed this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Sunday in Asaba. According to Ojoko, the training programme is to assist the young farmers expand their knowledge in hybrid tomato farming..." ([Source story](#))

KES26 billion (US\$250 million) to Cushion Agriculture

Kenya



"The World Bank has approved a new loan totalling US\$250 million (KES25.8 billion) to finance efforts to cushion Kenya's agricultural sector from adverse weather. The loan for the project titled Climate Smart Agriculture will finance research, production and distribution of seeds as the country moves to build resilience to fluctuating weather risks. The World Bank said the five-part project will start by financing and upscaling "climate-smart" agricultural practices that will cut greenhouse gas emission and boost adaptation to harsh conditions. The second component, the global lender said, would involve research, production and distribution of weather-resilient seeds to small scale farmers while the third part of the loan will go to marketing and advisory services. Other components include development of agro-weather forecasting and marketing information system and financing activities..." ([Source story](#))

IFC and CDC Invest up to US\$35 million to Support Kenya's Economy through Modern Warehousing Development

Kenya



"IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and CDC Group, the UK's development finance institution, will invest up to US\$35 million in Africa Logistics Properties Holding (ALP), a developer and manager of modern, grade-A warehousing, filling an important gap in logistics infrastructure in the region. The investment—US\$10 million from IFC and US\$25 million from CDC—will be used for ALP's developments in Nairobi, Kenya, the trading hub of East Africa, where the lack of quality, international-standard warehousing space has long been a constraint on business growth

and economic development..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Stronger support for Tanzania's farmers

Tanzania



"National efforts to modernise Tanzania's underdeveloped agricultural industry received a major boost at the end of 2016, in the form of a US\$93.5 million loan from the African Development Bank. The funding, which was approved in December, will support the state-owned Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) in reaching its target of issuing loans to 1 million farmers in the five-year period up to and including 2020 at rates of between 7% and 12%. Created by the government in 2015, the TABD aims to mobilise financial resources and bolster support across the agricultural sector by making low-interest loans available to small-scale farmers..." ([Source story](#))

Tanzania eyes KES2.5 trillion (US\$425 million) World Bank lending

Tanzania



"The minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango, said the funding will include \$425 million (sh1 trillion) for the second and third phases of the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit, \$305 Million (sh800 billion) for expansion of the port of Dar es Salaam and at least \$60 million (sh 140 billion) for the planned Ubungo interchange junction.

Other projects to be funded with their amounts in brackets are for improving the business environment (\$80 million, sh 180 billion), for education (\$100 million, sh230 billion), for water projects in Dar es Salaam (\$ 100 million) and for Budget management (US\$80 million) ..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

AfDB To Invest US\$24 billion In 10-year Agric Transformation Plan

Multiple



"The president of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Dr Akinwumi Adesina has said the bank through its Feed Africa Strategy, would invest US\$24 billion over the next 10 years to help drive

the agricultural transformation of Africa. This he said is a 400 per cent increase in financing to the agricultural sector by the bank. According to Akinwumi, "The bank's calculation is that transforming African agriculture will cost approximately US\$315 billion over 10 years, but will create new markets worth roughly US\$85 billion per year in incremental revenue by 2025..." ([Source story](#))

Manual to end food shortage cycle launched

Kenya



"The government has launched an innovation manual with applications geared towards heralding lasting solutions to the cycle of food shortage and poverty in the country.

The Manual, a collaborative research partnership between USAID and two Kenyan universities, has yielded over 600 agricultural innovations which will be disseminated through a countrywide network of 61 public libraries administered by the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS)..." ([Source story](#))

Aga Khan's TZ\$7 billion (US\$3 million) project to generate 5,000 new jobs

Tanzania



"The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is implementing an agro-business project that will create 200 enterprises and generate at least 5,000 jobs in Lindi and Mtwara regions. At least sh7.2 billion (US\$3 million) will be injected into the project. Of the 5,000 farmers, 2,000 will be women. Additionally, about 400 people will be brought into jobs, and 200 businesses will be established and supported. The project's long term plan is to create value chain in agriculture. Known as Kilimo ni Biashara, the project will involve mobilising farmers to create value chains. It focuses on vegetables, chickens, eggs, pulses and rice. The project will organise and train farmers to work as producer businesses to produce required volumes and quality of these items for targeted markets..." reads the statement..." ([Source story](#))

Varsities to support ECOWAS to implement agric policy

Multiple



"Enhancing Capacities on International Agriculture Agreements for Development of Regional Agriculture and Food Markets (ECIATA), a regional project collaboration between agriculture universities in the sub region, has pledged to support Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member-nations to promote policies that will boost food security. The main objective of the project is to strengthen the academic capacities of partner institutions on international trade agreements, which would enable them to enhance the institutional capacities of government ministries, agencies, regional bodies, farmers organisations, civil society and other relevant bodies on trade-related agriculture negotiations, agreements and policy implementation in support of regional agriculture and development of food markets..." ([Source story](#))

IITA to fight viral diseases in crops

Multiple



"Following the success of aflasafe—the first indigenous bio-control innovation for the prevention of aflatoxin contamination on the fields and store houses of maize and groundnut farmers in Africa, IITA is set to enable commercialisation of the technology, to ensure that farmers in need of the product have access to it.

The new aflasafe technology transfer and commercialisation project (TTC), funded by a US\$20 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and USAID, was launched last December to be implemented in countries, such as Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia..." ([Source story](#))

MasterCard launch mobile marketplace for Africa's agricultural sectors

Multiple



"MasterCard launched 2KUZE this week, a digital platform that connects smallholder farmers, agents, buyers and banks in East Africa. The marketplace will enable farmers to buy, sell and receive payments for agricultural goods via

feature phones. The platform will bring together the benefits and security of mobile commerce and payments to farmers in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

2KUZE was developed at the MasterCard Lab for Financial Inclusion in Nairobi, which was set up in 2015 to develop practical and cost-effective financial tools that expand access and help build stable futures for more than 100mn people globally. Through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Lab is working with East African entrepreneurs, governments and other stakeholders to develop local products rooted in the company's global knowhow. Currently, 2,000 small-scale farmers in Nandi Hills, Kenya are using the solution to sell their produce and working with farmer-friendly agents to ensure they reach the right buyers for the best price..." ([Source story](#), [Source story](#))

Over 50 to train in post-harvest handling

Multiple



"More than 50 local agribusiness dealers and farmers will undergo post-harvest and storage handling and pitching training in Nairobi Kenya. The training which will begin on April 4-5 will focus on how best to reduce post-harvest loss through better storage management practices and technologies, said James Shikwati, the chief executive officer of the Inter-Region Economic Network.." ([Source story](#))