

Food Loss & Waste Africa

Intelligence Report 8
June - December 2016



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For public sharing and dissemination.

Being Informed

Making good decisions is all about being informed. Agricultural industry reports do just that, and more broadly reputable news agencies provide similar services. But what happens when an issue like 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.

Post-harvest loss in Africa is an issue that a wide group of stakeholders are concerned with, as its costs are vast:

- 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 (SSA) alone, 30-50% of production is lost at various points along the value chain.¹
- FLW causes as much as \$940 billion per year in economic losses.²

Numerous organizations and groups are putting significant effort into advancing the issue, but there is a massive information gap.

What if you could tap into the varied and diverse expertise across these stakeholder groups, across countries and regions through an information resource at regular intervals (quarterly / monthly)? Such a resource could provide a richer understanding of what is happening in your country or region, in innovations along the value chain emerging from around the world, and in the biggest game changing investments and policy shifts.

Do you or your organization want to learn more about how to make this possible and to be a part of the group shaping this initiative, its content and impact? Please contact:

foodloss@dalbergresearch.com

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

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

Request free copy

The current report covers our mandate with the Rockefeller Foundation and is freely available. If you would like a copy of this or any future reports please simply send your name, organization and job title with your request to foodloss@dalbergresearch.com and we will send these to you electronically as they come out.

We would love your input on what else you would like to see covered. Please send your needs and we will endeavor to include additional content.

About this report

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 8th volume of Food Loss & Waste reports and currently focuses on Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Malawi.

This report could be so much more. It could cover more countries, it could go deeper on important themes like innovation, funding or risk analysis, and it could be a broader shared resource for the wide range of related initiatives to both provide and extract insights. It could meet the needs of vested interest organizations and agencies, as well as Agricultural Ministries.

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Contents:

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Overview	5
Value Chain Summaries.....	6
Highlighted Stories.....	8
Media Monitoring.....	14
Country Summaries	24

Overview

Food loss, occurring at production, postharvest and processing stages of the value chain, is vital to agriculture and food security.

It is estimated global food loss and waste amount to 1.3 billion tons per year, representing one-third of the food produced for human consumption. The FAO estimates post-harvest losses are worth US\$4bn every year. Causes of food loss in emerging economies are mainly due to financial, managerial and technical limitations in harvesting techniques, weak infrastructure and storage and cooling facilities and poor packaging and marketing systems. Africa is the continent with the highest post-harvest losses (PHL) rates.

Major economic development and diversification investments will have significant impact for agriculture and food loss and waste.

The sector across sub-Saharan Africa got a major commitment of US\$30 billion to finance agricultural infrastructure projects, credit to SMEs/agribusiness, crop and livestock research, and capacity building initiatives and emerged from an Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) forum. Contributions will come from the African Development Bank (AfDB), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation among others. Kenya also received a major investment pledge from Japan, worth US\$27 billion in loans and grants to facilitate the development of Special Economic Zones, which will host wholesale and retail trading entities, breaking bulk, re-packaging logistics, warehousing, cargo handling and storage. Smaller announcements around agricultural transformation include a Central Bank allocation of N1.7 trillion (USD \$1.6bn) in Nigeria, and KES 111billion (USD \$1bn) from the World Bank in Kenya's arid areas.

Government policies have received mixed reviews, some readily embraced while some criticized.

Nigeria passed a bill for the establishment of the Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service 2016 which will prevent the introduction of exotic pests and diseases in addition to encouraging a 15% cassava flour inclusion in bread. In Malawi the drafting of the sugar bill is aimed at promoting local sugar sector, through preventing illegal importation, addressing industry barriers and assisting manufacturers access more markets. Tanzania banned the export of unprocessed cereal crops and others, a move highly criticized by tomato farmers due to subsequent losses. Kenya, allowed potato seeds import, a move cited to pile pressure on local seed development and production.

Despite the above notable contributions, the sector continues to grapple with some broad natural and economic challenges.

In the past quarter, adverse climatic changes and an El Niño induced drought plummeted previous food security efforts across Sub-Saharan Africa. The failed/below average harvest effects will be felt until April 2017 with La niña like effects being recorded in some countries. Malawi was strongly affected. *Tomato absoluta*, a crop-killing moth, devastated Nigeria's tomato industry leading to more than 90% crop ruin. Erisco Foods, the largest tomato paste manufacturer, threatened to shut its processing plant with plans to relocate to China citing frustrations with the ailing economy particularly inability to access foreign exchange and also the government's apparent indirect support to importation of pastes.

Value Chain Summaries

Farm

Some large-scale training initiatives and extension services were announced this period. The African Development Bank (AfDB) earmarked \$12.5 billion to train 250,000 agripreneurs in 25 African countries before 2025, and in Malawi, Farm Radio Trust plans to reach twice as many farmers (500,000) through its farmer to farmer capacity building videos. USAID's US\$2 million will also promote agriculture and nutrition extension services.

Technology continues to be prevalent in recent announcements. In Kenya, for example, more than 300,000 watermelon and onion farmers are accessing agronomic services on Expressions Global Group's social media site. Similarly, Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) launched an electronic agricultural portal to enhance access to information across all value chains.

On-farm productivity shows impressive evidence of impact through the use of high yielding seed varieties. More than 35,000 farmers in Kenya are harvesting double yields per acre after adopting the high producing orange-fleshed sweet potato varieties from the International Potato Center (CIP).

New seed varieties and pest management products and better access have also been announced. ICRISAT released new seed varieties of green grams, millet, sorghum and groundnuts ideal for hot weather conditions to more than 300 farmers in Kenya in addition to training on better agronomic and post-harvest practices. A new tomato hybrid variety from Syngenta was announced that allows up to one month selling window before rotting and regenerating. A biological control for spider mites, which can account for up to 50% loss in vegetables, was released by Real IPM, Real IPM *Phytoseiulus*. A communal seed bank in Malawi, for distribution during disasters, in a partnership between

Concern Universal (CU) and Village Development Committee (VDC) was also announced.

Storage

Renewable powered storage is getting a boost in Nigeria and Kenya. ColdHub's new solar powered walk in stations were introduced to the fruit and vegetable markets in Nigeria. Kikapu, a new portable and collapsible solar or battery powered grain silo facility, was introduced in Kenya. The KinoSol is developing a low-tech and low-cost and lightweight dehydrator prototype that harnesses the sun's rays to dry fruits, vegetables and insects.

Investments in expansion of storage capacity were most prevalent in Tanzania and Malawi this period. Improved import and export facilities in Tanzania followed the development of Swissport's US\$13 million warehouse. Malawi's agricultural storage capacity has been given a boost by a US\$31 million (€30 million) European Investment Bank (EIB) funding, developed in collaboration with USAID and the National Bank of Malawi (NBM), to target agri-storage projects spearheaded by the private sector. Smaller scale storage investments included, for example, the construction of US\$67k storage warehouses.

Promotion of best practice in PHL aims to create/expand the markets for storage products including metal silos produced by local tinsmiths and the use of PICs bags, run by Tanzania's Grain Post-Harvest Loss Prevention Project, supported by Helevetas Swiss Inter-corporation.

Processing

Several processing zones and facilities have been set up across all focus countries. The largest was Tanzania's first aseptic fruit and vegetable packing facility worth \$120 million opened by Bakhresa Group with capacity to process between 20-25,000 tonnes of fruit per year. Salima Sugar company, Malawi's second sugar company,

announced that it has started production. Other announcements were more prospective. Sameer Group's Sasini Limited is planning to set up a Sh 400 million (US\$4 million) macadamia plant in Kenya, and the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) in Nigeria identified 10 sites for the establishment of new sugar factories.

Breakthrough research innovations in commodity processing continue to gain traction this quarter. Researchers are collaborating on developing a nanotechnology application of hexanal, a natural fruit extract which inhibits fruit ripening. Similarly, Australian firm Naturo Pty developed the Natavo Zero™ technology, which stops browning of cut and pulped avocado and allows avocados to last up to two years when frozen, 30 days once defrosted, and a minimum of 10 days when the packaging is opened.

Transport

Major rail and road infrastructure investments were reported in Kenya and Tanzania and beyond. A \$7.6 billion loan from China's Export-Import Bank (EXIM) was provided to construct a standard gauge railway to link the Dar es Salaam port with Burundi, Rwanda and DR Congo. The Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) increased its cargo haulage capacity following a rail revamp, from 600,000 tonnes to two million tones. The African Development Bank (AfDB) is funding the rehabilitation of the 75 km Liwonde-Mangochi road in Malawi.

Access to Market

Contract farming initiatives for sorghum and potatoes and hot chilli were announced in Kenya, providing a guaranteed market access for farmers. East African Breweries Limited (EABL) is seeking to raise its sorghum uptake by three-fold to 30, 000 tonnes a year. Deepa Industries and Sereni Fries will buy potatoes worth US\$1.8 million this year. And an initiative funded by USAID and Golden Solutions is buying two tonnes of chillis per week.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are also making progress in bridging gaps to market. Nakumatt joined the COMESA Business Council's Local

Sourcing for Partnerships project which engages large corporations to source products from the region's small growth enterprises. In Malawi, a multi-stakeholder partnership between Tesco, Marks & Spencer (M&S), and Unilever, has made significant progress towards achieving a competitive Malawian tea sector. The Fair Trade Organization has partnered with Just Trading Scotland (JTS) to sell Malawian rice in Scottish stores.

Access to Finance

Financing continues to get a major push. Various banks have committed to single digit, 9 per cent, interest rates on agricultural based loans in addition to earmarking billions to the sector. The government of Tanzania with private sectors collaborators have resulted in Sh500 billion and US\$460 million loan and infrastructure allocations by the National Microfinance Bank (NMB) and the CRDB respectively.

Highlighted Stories

Stories from over the period that are particularly innovative, looking for scale, strong local focus or tapping into new technologies.

Naturo Pty Ltd develops new natural avocado processing technology

Naturo, an Australian based company that develops original and healthy technologies and products for businesses in the food sector, recently developed a flagship product. It is an avocado processing machine dubbed Avocado Time Machine (ATM) which uses its Natavo Zero™ technology to naturally stop the browning of cut and pulped avocado by inhibiting the enzyme, Polyphenol Oxidase or PPO, which causes browning.

Natavo Zero-processed avocados last up to two years when frozen, 30 days once defrosted, and a minimum of 10 days when the packaging is opened. The technology is a major boost to the avocado industry; it will eliminate waste by processing second grade, cosmetically 'ugly' and undersized avocados into pulps and slices. It will also allow farmers and processors to access new export markets, and ensure avocado availability all year round.

Alternative avocado processing technologies present various shortcomings. The High-Pressure Processing (HPP) has a shorter shelf life, is expensive and is only applied to pulped avocado not cut. Antioxidant dips or acid baths change the natural taste & texture and add chemicals raising food safety concerns. The technology therefore lasts longer and is chemical-free.

The machine processes 500 kilograms of avocados in an hour. Currently, it's aimed at large scale avocado processors or consumers like airlines and restaurants. The company states that it could develop a consumer scale product in the future.

Naturo has an explicit food waste reduction strategy "We strongly support the efforts in reducing waste and spoilage of good food from paddock to plate. The careful use of natural resources and the protection of our environment is our first priority."

www.naturotechnologies.com

ColdHubs sets up and installs modular, solar-powered walk-in cold rooms in farms and markets

ColdHubs is a Nigerian based company with an explicit food loss reduction strategy. "Our innovation, ColdHubs, is a "plug and play" modular, solar-powered walk-in cold room, for 24/7 off-grid storage and preservation of perishable foods."

ColdHubs addresses the challenges associated with post-harvest losses in fruits and vegetables. The cold rooms are installed in major food production and consumption centers (in markets and farms), farmers place their produce in clean plastic crates, and these plastic crates are stacked inside the cold room. It extends the freshness of fruits, vegetables and other perishable food from 2 days to about 21 days. The solar powered walk-in cold room is made of 120mm insulating cold room panels to retain cold. Energy from solar panels mounted on the roof-top of the cold room are stored in high capacity batteries, these batteries feeds an inverter which in turn feeds the refrigerating unit.

This innovation is critical in tackling constraints in cold storage due to erratic power supply in developing countries. The alternative which includes buying a refrigerator and a diesel powered generator is expensive; related operational costs are \$37.50 per month compared to ColdHubs' \$0.20 daily rate per crate stored.

As of January 2017, ColdHubs had set up five cold rooms across Nigeria; Owerri, Orlu, Ihiala and Kano. ColdHubs plans to build about 60 cold rooms across Nigeria by the end of the year with plans to venture into Kenya and Zimbabwe in 2018. Ultimately, the company is working towards setting up a cold chain business; with plans to start a logistics line which will include reefer trucks for guaranteed cooling from farm to market/until the last crate is sold. The company is currently in its initial rolling out phase and anticipates commercial viability from end of

2018/early 2019. It has received a \$12, 000 funding for a 27% equity stake.

(www.coldhubs.com)

Farm Radio Trust (FRT) fosters rural development via communication technologies.

Farm Radio Trust (FRT) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that exists to foster rural and agricultural development in Malawi through the use of radio and other information and communications technologies (ICTs)."

FRT received a EUR 1.04 million grant from the Belgium government towards its [Scaling-up Radio and ICTs in Enhancing Extension Delivery \(SRIEED\) project](#), aimed to improve the access and reach of agricultural extension services for smallholder farmers. In an aim to deliver alternative, interactive and complementary services, the organization [distributed](#) smart-phones which farmers are using to watch farm videos. The videos have been translated into local languages by [Access Agriculture](#), an INGO which showcases agricultural training videos in local languages. FRT plans to reach around 500 000 smallholder farmers. The project will run till 2019.

Some of its partners to date include; Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Irish Aid, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World University Service of Canada, Rural Livelihoods and Economic Enhancement Program, among other Malawi based corporations.

(www.farmradiomw.org)

FarmCrowdy provides a platform for investing in agriculture

Farmcrowdy is an agric-tech platform that gives Nigerians the opportunity to invest in Agriculture. "We use the investors funds secure the land, engage the farmer, plant the seeds, insure the farmers and farm produce, complete the full farming cycle, sell the harvest and then pay the investor a return for their investment. While this farm process is on-going, the farm sponsors are able to keep track of the full-cycle by getting updates in text, pictures and videos."

Farm sponsors go through a profile of available farms and identify one of interest. Farm types include; cassava,maize, tomato, chicken, and fish farms. All farms have a different tenure/contract

period and varying returns on investment; from 13-25%. The investment fund, paid at the beginning of a farming cycle includes; land lease costs, agricultural inputs like seedlings/livestock, &fertilizers, maintenance, supervisions and administration.

Farm sponsors receive periodic updates and reports in form of text, pictures & videos and are able to learn what it takes to farm selected farms. They can also engage the farmer at will and may request a physical visit to the farm. At harvest, produce is sold to consumer markets and profit split between the farmer (40%), farm sponsor (40% plus original capital paid back) and FarmCrowdy (20%). To date, FarmCrowdy has planted 298 acres of the 1287 available; it has 52 farm sponsors and 1511 farmers. It was founded in 2016.

FarmCrowdy secures investments, provides agricultural insurance for farmers' lives and expected produce against pests and uncontrollable circumstances. The platform allows farm sponsors and farm followers (those who don't invest but follow farms of interest) to learn about agriculture conveniently. It also provides an avenue to utilize untapped arable land. (www.farmcrowdy.com)

Ignitia informs farmers on the optimum times to sow, fertilize and harvest

Ignitia is a Ghanaian based company which provides daily forecasts and monthly & seasonal outlooks to over 100,000 subscribers. Ignitia works closely with small-scale farmers, providing them with reliable forecasts, to reduce risk and loss. Their forecasts have an accuracy of 84%; more than twice as accurate as global producers.

Ignitia partners with mobile telecommunications companies and customers pay \$0.02 per message using their phone credit. It is fully operational in Ghana through a partnership with MTN Ghana, with pilots in other West African countries and plans to expand to Cote d'ivoire and Niger in 2017 and other regions in 2018.

The innovation emerged second at the USAID and partners Agricultural Innovation Investment Summit in 2016; winning \$5,000. Similarly, the company plans on scaling operations following a \$2.5 million grant from the Securing Water for

Food challenge funded by the governments of the United States, Sweden, South Africa, and the Netherlands. Ignitia has partnered with GIZ and WFP.

The company may not have a specific interest in tackling food loss; however its forecasting model informs farmers on the most favourable time to sow, fertilize and harvest which leads to risk and loss reduction. (www.ignitia.se)

Kinosol SBC provides solar-powered food dehydrators with temporary storage components

KinoSol is an American based company which produces solar-powered food dehydrators capable of dehydrating fruits, vegetables, grains, and insects. The dehydrators are fully powered by natural solar i.e. dry fruits, vegetables, grains and insects in a process of natural convection in about six to eight hours.

Kinosol has sold over 50 dehydrators (also referred to as the Orenda) across 20 countries to date. The Dehydrator, with temporary storage and 10 Mylar bags retails at \$130 whereas the dehydrator alone retails at \$110.

The company has run field tests across the world, and has developed 8 prototypes to date. It partners with various civil society members keen on tackling food loss for example; the Lutheran Church of Hope in Ghana, South Africa, Haiti, and Uganda, the Green Africa Initiative (GAI) in Tanzania, Kyosiga Kyokungura One Voice Campaign in Uganda and Gundersen Clinic in Ethiopia among others.

The team is currently working on expanding the dehydrator use by developing a domestic unit aimed at addressing consumer food waste in urban environments. Through its [Kickstarter Campaign](#) which ended in November 2016, the team raised \$10, 445 for research and development, of a unit for use in United States, Western Europe, and other areas.

KinoSol has [received](#) a couple of awards; \$35,000 following the start-up's participation in the [Innové Project](#), \$5,000 award from the 2015 [Pappajohn New Venture Student Business Plan Competition](#), and \$300 cash prize from the [Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship](#).

Kinosol has an explicit food loss and waste reduction strategy. "The goal of KinoSol is to end

food waste, increase nutrient availability, and improve the livelihoods of subsistence farmers around the world. Today, one-third of all food produced is wasted and KinoSol is working to save this third." (www.getkinosol.com)

FarmForce uses mobile technology to redefine contract farming

FarmForce is a mobile solution that simplifies the management of small-holder farmers, increases traceability and enables access to formal markets. It is used to efficiently manage outgrower schemes and contract farming programs.

FarmForce helps smallholder farmers gain access to formal markets and improve the effectiveness of outgrowerschemes. Formal markets can increase the number of potential buyers for smallholder produce but these markets require traceability and compliance to food safety standards; something which has traditionally been challenging and time-consuming.

The app [requires](#) at least 50 acres therefore contracted farmers can amalgamate their small pieces and feed the information into the system to allow for central management. The cost of installation depends on the crops under management. Installing the app for 20 users can cost the contractor about Sh300, 000.

It is created and developed by the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture and is co-founded by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland. (www.farmforce.com)

BrazAgro Ltd distributes solar or battery powered and collapsible Kikapu Silos

BrazAgro Ltd is a leading supplier of farm machinery and equipments, based in Nairobi, Kenya with representation in Uganda, Rwanda, Mozambique, Tanzania and Ethiopia. Founded in 1996, the company is known for marketing and distributing leading brands from Brazil which include Kepler Weber, Trapp, JF Maquinas, Lavrale, Incomagri and Mesel.

In 2014, the company started distributing Kikapu Silos developed by [Kepler Weber](#). Kikapu is a solar or battery powered, portable and collapsible silo facility which aerates grains and reduces moisture content to 13%. The silo is tailor-made to fit smallholder and medium enterprises needs.

Kikapu capacity ranges from 2.5 tonnes to six tonnes, and price from KES200, 000 – 400, 000. It's easy to operate and assemble and suitable for areas with intermittent electricity supply. This storage facility reduces postharvest loss and allows farmers to sell produce when they can fetch more money enhancing economic empowerment. (www.brazagroltd.com)

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) developed a low cost portable device for detecting aflatoxins

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is an international non-profit organization that undertakes scientific research in agriculture for development. Recently, ICRISAT Malawi [developed](#) the first portable low-cost device (retailing at \$2) for rapid detection of aflatoxins, and poisonous chemicals. The Rapid test kit (lateral flow device), will combine with a mobile extraction kit, and is the first portable cost-effective way for farmers and others to detect aflatoxins.

The kit requires limited technical knowledge or training and can be done on location. According to [ICRISAT](#), the device is based on the lateral flow immunoassay test (popularly known as the strip test like that used to detect glucose in human blood). If aflatoxins are present in the sample, then one pink line appears on the strip, whereas if the sample doesn't have any aflatoxins, two pink lines will appear. Currently, the test can be applied to detect aflatoxins in groundnuts. The device will contribute in managing and reducing the entry of aflatoxins in the food value chains, improve diagnosis for local & export trade and support the food processing industry in maintaining low exposure levels in food products. ICRISAT Malawi developed the device in partnership with the National Smallholder Farmers Association of Malawi (NASFA), Farmers Union Malawi (FUM), Kamuzu Central Hospital and Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi with funding from the McKnight Foundation.

ICRISAT plays an explicit role in agricultural research development. "ICRISAT provides scientific support in; sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, chickpea, pigeon peas, small millets and groundnuts. For these mandated crops, ICRISAT builds special expertise across the whole value

chain – conserving, analyzing, breeding, and understanding on- farm management practices, processing and agribusiness opportunities." (www.icrisat.org)

Hermisons Green Energy Limited offers quality and affordable green energy products

The Hermisons Green Energy Limited, based in Kenya, safeguards the environment by offering quality and affordable green energy products. The company specializes in the production of briquettes from sugarcane bagasse and sawdust for use in industrial boilers.

Briquettes are a great alternative to firewood and heavy carbon fuels because they are not only high in energy output but also low on smoke and ash. Hermisons produces 600 tonnes a month to its clientele; Shoe manufacturer Bata, corrugated cartons and polypropylene sacks manufacturer All Packs Ltd, Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), Kenya Breweries and bread manufacturer Elliots.

Hermisons is receiving support from the [Kenya Climate Innovation Center](#) (KCIC) which provides incubation, capacity building and financing services to Kenyan entrepreneurs in innovative solutions in the energy, water and agribusiness sector. The company plans to expand its production capacity by acquiring a second briquetting machine and also venturing into domestic briquettes. They also plan to put up a solar rooftop in order to reduce their energy costs. (www.hermisonsgreenenergy.com)

Deepa Industries initiates contract farming

Deepa Industries (Tropical Heat) was established as a small ethnic snack cottage industry in 1973. The company manufactures a vast range of spices and snacks. The spices include pure spices, herbs, seasonings, masalas and salts. Snack items comprise of potato crisps, ethnic snacks, Kenyan chevda, peanuts, rice cakes and extruded snacks.

The company signed a KES180 million [deal](#) for potato supply. The initiative is funded by USAID and will allow growers to supply 600 tonnes of potatoes worth Sh15 million every month. It's focusing on potato contracting as potato snacks are its biggest revenue generator. It currently processes about 200kilos of potatoes per hour compared to 15 tonnes of chilli per month.

This initiative enhances a steady produce supply, but also provides a guaranteed market for farmers from Kenya's Bomet and Narok South regions. Farmers will also benefit from field extension services and links to micro-loans from cooperatives. The company initiated contract farming in 2010 however farmers opted out of the contract as they had anticipated better prices in the market.

Deepa Industries has an explicit food loss reduction strategy. With funding from the [International Finance Corporation](#) (IFC), it is constructing a new processing plant, with a potato processing capacity of 650 kilos per hour and a cold room storage capacity that allows potatoes to stay fresh up to 3 months. The company has stated that they could venture into chilli contract farming if the current partnership fairs well. In the future, the firm plans to mechanise harvesting by providing harvesting machines and tractors to its farmers. Similarly, this will be contingent on the farmers meeting the current terms of engagement. (www.tropicalheat.co.ke)

Sereni Fries is providing a ready market for potato farmers

Sereni Fries is a potato processor in Kenya processing raw and pre-cooked potato products such as whole raw peeled potatoes, raw sliced potatoes, ready to cook blanched potato and sliced/cubed potatoes.

Sereni Fries has an explicit role in Kenya's potato processing industry. According to [FoodTech](#), the company processes up to seven tonnes of potatoes daily for hotels, cafeterias and retail outlets. The company uses the jelly potato variety cited to be limited in supply. The company [joined](#) Deepa Industries (see above) in signing a KES 180 million contract to tackle shortages in supply and guarantee ready market for farmers.

Previously, Sereni fries has partnered with [Solidaridad](#) on a project aimed at targeting the commercialisation of new potato varieties through market linkages between farmers and processors with 400 smallholder farmers in Narok, Meru and Nyandarua Counties in Kenya. (www.serenifries.co.ke)

Expressions Global Group LTD provides water harvesting products and agricultural value add services

Expressions Global Group LTD is providing agronomic support/advice to young farmers across Kenya through social media as reported by [PBS](#). The company's advisory services on Facebook have linked more than 30,000 farmers to 300 part-time agronomists. The site provides tailored Q&A sessions to watermelon and onion farmers with plans to branch out to other fruits and vegetables in the future.

In the next 3-4 months, the company plans to launch an agric-information web-based platform, dubbed *Qisasa Farmer*, which will address various issues: unreliable and insufficient crop management resources; insufficient technical support (most agronomists are found in towns/cities and their environs therefore contracting their services to rural areas may be expensive), lack of real-time farmer support services (farmers will upload videos or photos of their specific issues and agronomists will address them in-real time); the platform will also address the lack of online pest & disease inspection and identification resources and finally lack of online shopping platforms for agro-chemicals.

In addition to the web extension services provision, before the end of the year, Expressions Group will launch *Qisasa Store*, aimed at specifically addressing lack of adequate cold storage facilities. Farmers will be able to store their produce in the cold facilities which will also serve as produce distribution centers. The company will introduce an SMS-based ordering system that will directly link farmers to vendors therefore formalizing the supply chain and cutting out middlemen. The startup has partnered with the African Development Foundation, Drake University, and the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX). (www.expressions.co.ke)

Nakumatt Holdings joins efforts to promote intra-COMESA Trade

Nakumatt Holdings is one of the largest supermarket chains in Kenya with about 65 stores across East Africa. In 2016, Nakumatt [joined](#) the [COMESA Business Council](#) (CBC)'s effort in promoting intra-COMESA trade. CBC's [Local Sourcing for Partnerships](#) project, launched in 2015, encourages consumption of locally grown

products by engaging large corporate companies within the region to source products from 480 Small Growth Enterprises.

The project is focusing on food and beverage supplies among other sectors in six COMESA states; Zambia, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Malawi on its Business Linkages Portal (BLP). The Star [reports](#) that CBC will spend KES95 million to train the suppliers on global standards based on the [Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points](#) (HACCP) standard, a management system in which food safety is addressed through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production, procurement and handling, to manufacturing, distribution and consumption of the finished product.

The project is supported by the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (IFC), USAID-IPAA and the private sector. Sandra Uwera, CBC's chief executive [stated](#) that sourcing for products locally will enhance efficiency in service delivery through reduced transportation cost, and customs levies. It also allows companies to control quality along the supply chain, as well as enhancing flexibility in placing orders, which consequently leverages millions of investments. Finally the partnership helps to integrate thousands of small farmers into local and regional supply chains creating jobs and better livelihoods.

In addition to Kenya's Nakumatt, CBC has entered into buyer [agreements](#) with a couple of private sector players namely; Speke Group of Hotels and Serena Hotels- Uganda, Serena Hotel Kigali, Taj Pamodzi and Protea – Zambia, Protea-Malawi, Bralirwa Ltd (brewery and soft beverages) and Inyange Industries (produce fruit juices, milk and other dairy products) in Rwanda, Intercontinental Hotel Addis and Shoa

Supermarket in Ethiopia and Sarova Group of Hotels in Kenya. (www.nakumatt.net)

Bakhresa Group opens Tanzania's first fruit processing company

Bakhresa Group of Companies is an industrial conglomerate based in Tanzania and has operations in Zanzibar, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa. Its investments are primarily in the food and beverage sector (producing wheat flour, wheat bran, maize flour, maize bran, biscuits & bakery products, ice cream, carbonated soft drinks & malt flavored product), packaging, logistics, marine passenger services, petroleum and entertainment sectors.

In 2016, the company [opened](#) Tanzania's first indigenous aseptic fruit packaging facility worth \$120 million. The plant has a [capacity](#) to process between 350tonnes of fruits and vegetables daily, amounting to about 41 million litres of juice a year. The plant is located in Kahama District near Dar es Salaam and will receive produce from farmers in Kahama District, the Coast and southern Tanzania regions.

Tanzania's government has committed to assist the company's industrialization efforts. During the plant's inauguration, the president pledged 10,000 hectares of land for a sugarcane plantation and a processing plant. Similarly, in October, Bakhresa Group's head [pledged](#) to set up more fruit processing industries in Tanzania. Bakhresa assured the government that his company will set up a fruit processing industry in the Lake Tanganyika Zone since farmers there are forced to travel all the way to Dar es Salaam to sell their produce. (www.bakhresa.com)

Media Monitoring

1 Civil Society

Farming goes digital in Malawi: Farm Radio Trust, Access Agriculture hailed for farmer-to-farmer videos

Malawi
Farm

"Malawian farmers can now learn from fellow farmers across the continent in the confines and privacy of their homes, thanks to an initiative by Farm Radio Trust and Access Agriculture..." [Source story](#)

Boost in yields as Kerio Valley farmers get high quality seeds

Kenya
Farm

"High quality seeds of green grams, millet sorghum and groundnuts released by the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to over 300 farmers in Kerio Valley have boosted yields and earnings in the last one year. The groundnuts and green grams varieties KS20, CG7, and ICCV90704 are adopted to the hot weather conditions of Kerio Valley..." [Source Story](#)

Farmers harvest double from orange-fleshed sweet potato varieties

Kenya
Farm

"More than 35,000 farmers in Nyanza and Western Kenya are harvesting double yields per acre after adopting the high producing orange-fleshed sweet potato varieties from research organization, International Potato Center (CIP)..." [Source Story](#)

Conservation agriculture solution to climate change – AICC

Malawi
Farm

"Agriculture International Commodity Consumption (AICC) on Friday advised farmers in Mchinji to adopt conservation agriculture to deal with effects of climate change such as dry spells. AICC, with funding from Rural Livelihood and Economic Enhancement Program (RLEEP), has for three years now been working with lead farmers in the district to implement conservation agriculture in the wake of dry spells that hit some parts of the country..." [Source Story](#)

New drought-tolerant maize varieties perform wonders

Malawi
Farm

"Drought tolerant crops can do better in areas that receive little rainfall and are prone to drought, a research has revealed. The research, by Malawi Integrated Seed System Technologies (MISST), a

USAID funded project, conducted demonstrations using six drought tolerant varieties of ZM 523, CAP 9001, Peacock 10, Chitedze 2 QPM, MH 26 and Non-DT DKC 80-53..." [Source Story](#)

ICRISAT develops device to detect aflatoxins

Malawi
Farm

"The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) announced on Tuesday it has developed the first portable low-cost device for rapid detection of aflatoxins, or poisonous chemicals produced by certain kinds of mould in soil that affect crops..." [Source Story](#)

Tanzania's First Trial of Genetically Modified Crops Has Begun

Tanzania
Farm

"Tanzania planted its first genetically modified maize research trials [Oct. 5] under an initiative that is building a new model for advancing agricultural innovation through public-private partnerships. The confined field trial, a pre-cursor to commercialization, will demonstrate the effectiveness and safety of a drought-tolerant GM maize hybrid developed by the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project..." [Source Story](#)

Connecting with African farmers, Minnesotans find that simple technologies can be a game changer

Malawi
Farm,
Access to market

"In Malawi, CTI is piloting a project with women producers of groundnuts or peanuts, which are known to a highly nutritious crop: good for nutrition, good for the soil. They are part of the traditional diet and consumed in a variety of ways. But, peanuts are also a cash crop for which there is national, regional and global demand..." [Source Story](#)

Communities in Dedza establish seed bank

Malawi
Storage

"Over 60 villages in the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Kachindamoto in Dedza have established a communal storehouse for stocking seed grains meant for distribution to people in the area who lose their crops following disaster incidences..." [Source Story](#)

Farmers to get \$67,000 storage facilities

Tanzania
Storage

"Farmers in the region have been given a shot in the arm from a partnership between the Kilimanjaro-based Union of Christian Churches and a German company, Burg Warberg, which on Thursday signed an

agreement to construct a Sh1 billion agricultural warehouse..." [Source Story](#)

Grain farmers told to buy new storage bags that cost Sh200

Kenya
Storage

"Farmers have been urged to buy the newly launched grain storage bags that are affordable and efficient. With the Hermetic Storage Technology (HST) comes specially designed storage bags that provide moisture and insect control without pesticides. The technology launched by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) this week, will save the country heavy post-harvest losses estimated at more than sh 50 billion..." [Source Story](#)

New Initiative to Help Farmers

Kenya
Access to market

"Farm Africa, which recently launched an initiative that seeks to help small farmers find more markets in East Africa, has received a new £3 million grant from the UK government, through the Food Trade East and Southern Africa trade enhancement and promotion programme. The British grant is meant to support 70,000 smallholder grain farmers in Tanzania and Uganda access regional export markets. The farmers will be linked to buyers in East Africa using an innovative online trading platform, G-Soko and other market interventions..." [Source Story](#)

Malawi Govt, UNICEF in unmanned aircraft systems corridor

Malawi
Across Value Chain

"Government and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Thursday announced the establishment of an air corridor to test potential humanitarian use of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)..." [Source Story](#)

2 Multi-stakeholder

Kenya's Women Farmers Get Business Boost From Weather Texts

Kenya
Farm

"As surprise flooding and unexpected droughts continue to hit Kenyan farmers, the government of Makueni region has put weather information into the hands of a local women's group, giving villagers the farming advice they need from a source they can trust..." [Source Story](#)

NIFOR, PZ Wilmar sign MoU to boost oil palm production in Nigeria

Nigeria
Farm

"PZ Wilmar and the Nigeria Institute of Oil Palm Research on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding to boost palm oil production through research and human capacity building..." [Source Story](#)

Nanotech extends shelf life of fresh fruit

Multiple
Crop Research

"An international research team is developing nanotechnology-based applications of hexanal, a natural plant extract that extends the storage life of harvested fruit..." [Source Story](#)

Money talks during cane harvest season on Kisumu farms

Kenya
Access to market

"That farmers are forced to part with cash to influence various processes is well known, although nobody seems bothered. The bribe is a mandatory requirement during harvesting because at that point, the farmers' produce is at stake..." [Source Story](#)

Meru secures macadamia market in New Zealand

Kenya
Access to market

"Meru avocado and macadamia farmers can now export their produce to New Zealand. Bob Fullerton from the Plant and Food Research Institute of New Zealand said they will establish a tree nursery in Meru to provide local farmers with quality seeds..." [Source Story](#)

The MasterCard Foundation and Root Capital collaborate to increase the income of 300,000 farmers in West Africa

Multiple
Access to market

"Yesterday, an agricultural impact investor, Root Capital in collaboration with the MasterCard Foundation, announced that it would help raise the incomes of over 300,000 smallholder farmers in West Africa. This was made known at the ongoing African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) taking place in Nairobi, Kenya..." [Source Story](#)

Old Mutual to invest in Nigerian real estate, agriculture **Nigeria**
Access to finance

"Anglo-South African financial services firm Old Mutual and Nigeria's sovereign wealth fund on Friday signed agreements to set up two funds to invest in real estate and agriculture in Africa's most populous nation. Old Mutual and Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) said they would jointly raise a \$500 million fund to invest in real estate and another \$200 million to spend on agriculture projects in Nigeria..." [Source Story](#)

Stakeholders sign Sh32.9m agreement to revive cotton farming **Kenya**
Across Value Chain

"Cotton farming in Kenya is on the recovery path, thanks to an ambitious programme being fast tracked by value chain players. The programme launched yesterday in Tana River County aims at filling gaps along value chain, equipping farmers with farm inputs, credit, provision of extension services and linking them to the market..." [Source Story](#)

3 Private Sector

Pest predator saves farmers over 50 per cent vegetable losses **Kenya**
Farm

"Vegetable farmers, who lose up to 50 percent of their harvest to spider mites, can wipe out the pest using its biological enemy and relative, Real IPM Phytoseiulus..." [Source Story](#)

Kenya's FarmDrive to use weather data for credit assessment **Kenya**
Farm

"Kenyan agri-tech startup FarmDrive has partnered farming insurance firm ACRE Africa to utilise weather data for the provision of credit and insurance products to smallholder farmers throughout the East African country..." [Source Story](#)

Mobile app for rain forecasts raising farmers' yields **Kenya**
Farm

"A mobile phone-based innovation that can predict rain is helping farmers in six Sub-Saharan Africa countries sow, fertilise and harvest crops at the optimum time. The innovation is being used in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal to improve crop yields and optimise food production through information and communication technology (ICT) weather forecasting model that produces Global Positioning System (GPS)-specific forecasts..." [Source Story](#)

Banks to inject Sh1.5trn into financing agriculture **Tanzania**
Farm

"The government is discussing with three commercial banks with a view to seeing how they can extent support to post harvest infrastructure for improved value chain in agriculture..." [Source Story](#)

Kenyan entrepreneur grows business by helping young farmers **Kenya**
Farm

"Mumo started a business called Expressions Global Group, which helps young career farmers get advice from local agronomists on what to grow, the types of seeds, pesticides and fertilizers to use, and which times of year to plant. The network now includes about 20,000 farmers across Kenya and 300 part-time agronomists..." [Source Story](#)

Cellphone Apps for Soil Testing Expected in Dar **Tanzania**
Farm

"Mobile phones will soon be used in testing the fertility of soil at any given location, researchers say. Kenya-based, Capture Solutions, said last week that it will extend its business to Tanzania by introducing various mobile phone applications, including the use of mobile phone applications that help farmers in improving their productivity levels..." [Source Story](#)

With mixed cropping, you don't have to worry about pests in your greenhouse

Kenya
Farm

"The greatest challenge to farming is disease and finding the most economical way of controlling them is in every farmer's interest. In a bid to beat this challenge and maximize yields, Benjamin Kamanda decided to take a rough route rarely trod by agribusiness investors in Kenya- mixed cropping in the greenhouse..." [Source Story](#)

Ripe tomatoes sold for 30 days

Multiple
Farm

"Farmers can now beat poor prices and accruing losses resulting from rotting of tomatoes by growing a hybrid variety from Syngenta that allows for up to one month selling window..." [Source Story](#)

Swissport improves Tanzania handling with \$13m

Tanzania
Storage

"Swissport, the country's leading aviation services provider, has stepped up significant improvements on its export and import facilities in a spirited drive to boost the performance of the aviation industry in Tanzania by putting up an import warehouse valued at \$13 million (Tsh.26 billion) to be completed end of this month..." [Source Story](#)

Grain silo to reduce post harvest loss

Kenya
Storage

"Farmers in rural Kenya have over the years lost tonnes of harvested grain mostly due to poor post-harvest handling processes. This has also been attributed to lack of proper storage capacity. But this trend may soon change with the introduction of a new storage facility, dubbed Kikapu..." [Source Story](#)

Cold Hubs introduces solar-powered storage facility to empower Nigerian farmers

Nigeria
Storage

"To ensure a greater part of the country's farm yield does not get wasted due to challenges emanating from either erratic power supply or storage facilities reliant on power, Nigerian company; Cold Hubs has developed a solar-powered food storage design to empower small, medium and large-scale farmers, Vanguard reports..." [Source Story](#)

A Sunny Solution to the Problem of Food Waste

Multiple
Storage

"KinoSol, a low-tech and low-cost innovation, harnesses the sun to create dried fruits, vegetables, and other items. The lightweight dehydrator functions like a mini greenhouse. Using the sun's rays and air circulation in a process of natural convection, the collapsible design can dry fruits and vegetables in about six to eight hours. It can also dehydrate insects, beans, and grains, and features a storage compartment. Right now, the KinoSol costs \$250, with hopes to bring that down. The team is collecting field data and plans to have a fully functioning prototype by the beginning of 2017..." [Source Story](#)

Farm to kiosk: Disrupting the way Nairobi's informal traders buy produce

Kenya
Access to market

"When Kenyan company Twiga Foods started in November 2013, it set itself two seemingly competing goals: to ensure that farmers were paid more for their produce, while making that same produce available to vendors at lower prices. The company has achieved these goals, using mobile technology, a strong network of farmers, and infrastructure, including storage facilities and vehicles..." [Source Story](#)

EABL seeks more sorghum farmers as demand for Senator soars **Kenya**
Access to market

“East African Breweries Limited has started a new drive to recruit new farmers in Nyanza to produce sorghum, used in the manufacture of its popular drink senator Keg. The brewer says it is seeking to raise its sorghum uptake three-fold to 30, 000 tonnes a year. Consumption of the low-end beer already soared more than three times in the last financial year, the firm’s managing director Andrew Cowan told investors on Friday...” [Source Story](#)

Material benefits: Cotton On turns to Kenya for ethical trade **Kenya**
Access to market

“The billion-dollar Cotton On -retail group is poised to sell fashion products made from cotton grown by farmers in Kenya in its Australian stores as a significant step towards sourcing all its cotton from ethically produced sustainable sources across the globe...” [Source Story](#)

Nakumatt joins big firms in COMESA deal to help small suppliers **Kenya**
Access to Market

“Kenya's giant retailer Nakumatt is among several companies that have signed a pact to buy more local goods from small-scale farmers to improve market access for SMEs in agribusiness...” [Source Story](#)

Potato Processors Kenya initiate contract farming to deal with shortage of potatoes for processing **Kenya**
Access to market

“Two potato processing companies in Kenya agree to buy potatoes worth Sh180 million (1.8 million USD) from farmers every year as a shortage hits processors in Kenya...” [Source Story](#)

A Nairobi processing firm offering hot chilli market **Kenya**
Access to Market

“Stranded chilli farmers now have a sure market after a processing company announced that it is looking for a steady supply of at least two tonnes of the produce per week...” [Source Story](#)

Tea value network delivering supply chain sustainability in Malawi **Malawi**
Access to Market

“A multi-stakeholder coalition including Tesco, Marks & Spencer (M&S), and Unilever has made significant progress towards achieving a competitive Malawian tea sector where workers earn a living wage and smallholders earn a living income by 2020...” [Source Story](#)

Fair Trade organisation’s rice to be sold nationally in Co-op stores **Malawi**
Access to Market

“Fair trade organisation Just Trading Scotland (JTS) are to have their Kilombero rice sold by a national retailer. Malawi High Commissioner to the UK, Kena Mphonda, was present to witness the launch of the new partnership which will see the Co-operative sell the Malawian rice in its Scottish stores...” [Source Story](#)

Kenyan Millionaire Naushad Merali Invests \$4 Million In Macadamia Plant **Kenya**
Access to Market

“Sameer Group's Sasini Limited will set up a Sh400 million Macadamia Factory as part of revenue diversification strategy. The firm has embarked on inter-planting of Macadamia with Coffee bushes and has planted more than 2000 seedlings which they will sell to farmers at a subsidised cost. Sasini plans to hire more than 3,000 people once the plant is complete and promises to look for direct markets abroad for better returns to the farmers...” [Source Story](#)

Crop app tells contractors expected yields, market size to cut losses **Multiple**
Access to market

"Agripreneurs contacting farmers to produce given crops can approximate the amount of yields expected so as to look for sufficient market ahead of harvesting..." [Source Story](#)

In Nigeria's Developing Processed Food Sector, This Player Positions For First Mover Advantage **Nigeria**
Processing

"Many of the ingredients that Nigerians use for cooking are not produced or packaged in Nigeria. Kasope Ladipo-Ajai was inspired by what she recognized as a gap in the market to create a Nigerian business packaging and merchandising food that can compete with international brands..." [Source Story](#)

New Malawi sugar factory starts production in Salima **Malawi**
Processing

"President Prof. Peter Mutharika on Monday officially commissioned sugar production at the newly established Sugar Company in Salima..." [Source Story](#)

Major breakthrough for world-wide avocado industry **Multiple**
Processing

"Australian company offers world-first, all natural processing technology which stops browning of freshly cut avocado and prolongs shelf life for a minimum of 10 days..." [Source Story](#)

President inaugurates \$120m fruit processing factory **Tanzania**
Processing

"Tanzania's President John Magufuli recently inaugurated a \$120 million (Sh240 billion) fruit processing factory in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam, during which he signaled a thaw in relations with big business. It has the capacity to process between 20,000 and 25,000 tonnes of fruit per year and employ 600 permanent

workers, according to company officials..." [Source Story](#)

Markets in Malawi Tap Into the Power of the Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato **Malawi**
Across Value Chain

"Universal Industries, a leading snack and beverage producer in Malawi, is partnering with Feed the Future Partnering for Innovation and the International Potato Center to develop a value-added strategy in Malawi. Through the partnership, Universal Industries is testing and commercially launching four sweet potato-based products to the market. It is also building a sustainable supply chain by providing sweet potato farmers with training in proper production and storage, improved sweet potato vines, and a formal sweet potato market..." [Source Story](#)

Nigeria's first digital agriculture platform, Farmcrowdy.com opens shop **Nigeria**
Across Value Chain

"Nigeria's first digital agriculture platform, Farmcrowdy.com, was officially launched on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, in Lagos, Nigeria. Nigerians can now participate in agriculture using online technology..." [Source Story](#)

Village Capital, Schooner to accelerate East African agri-tech funding **Multiple**
Across the Value Chain

"Investment and entrepreneurship training firm Village Capital has partnered with the impact investment Schooner Africa Fund to launch an initiative to accelerate six-figure investments into agribusinesses in the region. The focus is on companies in East Africa's agricultural value chain that are in the so-called "Pioneer Gap", looking to raise between US\$100,000 and US\$500,000..." [Source Story](#)

Briquette entrepreneurs create industrial revolution

Kenya
Other

"A businessman in Kenya is using briquettes charcoal-like fuel made from sugarcane waste. The businessman produces 600 tonnes a month and has had impressive growth since its inception..." [Source Story](#)

New home-grown pesticide to fight Nigeria's tomato crisis

Nigeria
Farm

"Nigerian minister of science and technology Ogbonnaya Onu has announced that the federal government has developed a home-grown pesticide to fight the tomato pest – Tuta Absoluta – which has ravaged farms in the West African country..." [Source Story](#)

4 Public Sector

Govt. unveils smartphone App for flood prediction

Nigeria
Farm

"The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Nigeria has launched a smart phone application, dubbed "Wetin App" for flood forecasting especially along the Niger and Benue rivers..." [Source Story](#)

New home-grown pesticide to fight Nigeria's tomato crisis

Nigeria
Farm

"Nigerian minister of science and technology Ogbonnaya Onu has announced that the federal government has developed a home-grown pesticide to fight the tomato pest – Tuta Absoluta – which has ravaged farms in the West African country..." [Source Story](#)

Green Alternative: Agric Ministry launches e-agricultural portal to improve information access

Nigeria
Farm

"The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) has launched an electronic agricultural portal to improve access to information on agriculture and the entire value-chains..." [Source Story](#)

Green Alternative: Agric Ministry launches e-agricultural portal to improve information access

Nigeria
Farm

"The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) has launched an electronic agricultural portal to improve access to information on agriculture and the entire value-chains..." [Source Story](#)

Senate Passes Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service 2016 Bill

Nigeria
Farm

"The Senate yesterday, passed a Bill for the establishment of the Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service 2016. The Bill sponsored by Sen. Abdullahi Adamu (APC- Nasarawa) seeks to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of exotic pests and diseases from plants, animals and aquatic resources and their products into the country..." [Source Story](#)

Farmers will now detect fake seeds using Mobile phones

Kenya
Farm

"A farmer's friendly technology that will save farmers from buying substandard seeds and pharmaceutical products has been unveiled. The Information Technology system that provides an alert on the product through SMS has already been tested in the country and proved effective to detect counterfeit products..." [Source Story](#)

Ministry of Agriculture tips people on proper disposal of tomatoes

Malawi
Farm

“The Ministry of Agriculture has warned tomato farmers and traders to properly dispose of tomatoes that have been infested with the Tuta absoluta, a pest that is destroying the tomato crop in the country...” [Source Story](#)

Scotland producers target Sh6 billion Kenyan seed potato market in deal

Kenya
Farm

“A new deal set to see Scotland farmers export potato seeds to Kenya could pile pressure on local seed development and production. Scottish media on Friday reported that the government had signed a bilateral agreement with Kenyan authorities that will see Scottish farmers angle to grab a share of the estimated £50 million (Sh6.2 billion) seed potatoes market in Kenya...” [Source Story](#)

Dar es Salaam to Become Regional Hub for Commodity Market

Malawi
Storage

“Tanzania Commodity Exchange (TCX) is set to make Tanzania a hub for commodity trading in East African region that will involve setting up exchange associations and fostering relationships with International agencies...” [Source Story](#)

Government lines up major projects for northern Kenya

Kenya
Transport

“President Uhuru Kenyatta on Sunday said the World Bank is set to embark on a Sh111 billion funding of transformative projects in the country particularly the Arid and Semi-Arid areas...” [Source Story](#)

TAZARA aims at tripling cargo tonnage

Tanzania
Access to Market

“The Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) plans to increase its cargo haulage capacity from 600,000 per annum to two million

tonnes in the next five years as part of efforts to be more commercially viable...” [Source Story](#)

Kenya to sell more veg in Africa

Kenya
Access to Market

“Export Promotion Council (EPC) plans to focus on Africa in order to boost a growth of exports. According to Boit, Kenya is pursuing a number of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements with African states in order to smoothen trade...” [Source Story](#)

Agency to inspect weighbridges to address cane farmers cries

Kenya
Access to Market

“Sugar farmers have been losing their produce through manipulation of weighbridge readings where the recorded tonnage is far below that delivered. To curb the vice, the Sugar Directorate says it is planning impromptu inspections at millers’ weighbridges following an outcry from farmers...” [Source Story](#)

Malawi Government to construct markets for women

Malawi
Access to Market

“Government has outlined plans to construct established markets in the country in order to empower women in business ventures in agriculture and economic activities internationally...” [Source Story](#)

Kenya reaps big from trade summit as Japan seeks to strengthen ties

Kenya
Access to Market

“Kenya is arguably the biggest winner of the just concluded sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which left Africa with a \$30 billion (Sh3.042 trillion) investment pledge from Japan. Among various agreements, the two signed an MoU to jointly develop the Mombasa-Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone, with Kenya securing Sh27 billion from the Japanese government in form of both loan and grant for the project. It will host wholesale and retail

trading entities, breaking bulk, re-packaging logistics, warehousing, cargo handling and storage among others. [Source Story](#)

NSDC identifies 10 sites for sugar factories in Nigeria **Nigeria**
Processing

"The National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) said it has identified 10 sites for the development of sugar factories across Nigeria. Acting executive secretary of the council Samuel Kwambe made the announcement during a meeting with the management team of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) in Abuja..." [Source Story](#)

Bol signs N10b agro-mechanised deals with development partners **Nigeria**
Access to Finance

"In efforts to ensure food security and exports, the Bank of Industry (BoI) has signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth N10 billion with development partners..." [Source Story](#)

NMB to Extend Sh60 Billion Loans for Agriculture **Nigeria**
Access to Finance

The National Microfinance Bank (NMB) announced to set aside Sh60 billion for developing agribusiness in the next five years. The government set up the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) with a capital base of not less than Sh60 billion to offer loans to farmers. According to TADB, the government aims to increase the loan portfolio of agriculture to Sh800 billion in the next five years..." [Source Story](#)

Bol signs N10b agro-mechanised deals with development partners **Nigeria**
Across Value Chain

"In efforts to ensure food security and exports, the Bank of Industry (BoI) has signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth N10 billion with development partners. The total package will be given to small holding farmers on a single digit of nine per cent. Value addition and

processing will also be covered so that the country can have a viable agriculture value chain..." [Source Story](#)

FG launches agriculture roadmap, "The Green Alternative" **Nigeria**
Across Value Chain

"A new agriculture roadmap known as The Green Alternative (Agriculture Promotion Policy 2016 - 2020) has been officially launched by the federal government. Unveiling the new policy in Abuja yesterday, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, who said it was built on previous policies, said the policy would position agriculture as the arrow head of Nigeria's economic diversification programme..." [Source Story](#)

Edo govt to partner private sector in provision of 200,000 jobs for youths **Nigeria**
Across Value Chain

"Godwin Obaseki of Edo State, yesterday said the state government would partner with the private sector in its bid to create 200,000 jobs for youths in the state especially in the agricultural sector of the economy..." [Source Story](#)

French loan agreement to finance first phase of Kenyan wind farm **Kenya**
Other

"Kenya is set to sign a EUR 60 million loan agreement with the French Development Agency (AFD) to finance the first phase of construction of a wind farm that will have an eventual electricity generating capacity of 400 megawatts (MW)..." [Source Story](#)

5 Donors/Funders

AfDB to train 250,000 'Agripreneurs' in Nigeria **Nigeria**
Farm

"Africa Development Bank (AfDB) president Akinwumi Adeshina has announced that the bank has earmarked US\$12.5bn for the training of the next generation of agriculture entrepreneurs (agripreneurs) in Nigeria and 24 other African countries before 2025..." [Source Story](#)

Portuguese firm awarded contract to rehabilitate 75 km Malawi road **Malawi**
Transport

“The Malawi Roads Authority (MRA) has contracted Portuguese company Mota-Engil to rehabilitate the 75 km Liwonde–Mangochi road. The African Development Bank (AfDB) is funding the project...” [Source Story](#)

AfDB makes USD 9 million equity investment in Fund for Agricultural Finance in Nigeria **Nigeria**
Access to finance

“The African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved a USD \$9 million equity investment (approximately 12% of the fund’s capitalisation) in the Fund for Agricultural Finance in Nigeria (FAFIN) to provide expansion capital to agricultural small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)...” [Source Story](#)

World Bank support for Nigeria’s agriculture development hits \$600m **Nigeria**
Across Value Chain

“The World Bank said it has currently committed to about \$400 million into the Nigerian agriculture, and also unveiled plans to commit another \$200 million in the nation’s livestock development...” [Source Story](#)

Country Summaries

Kenya

Kenya's continued efforts in agriculture and food security is characterized by government and stakeholder collaboration and is mostly seen in infrastructural developments. The Japanese government pledged \$30 billion towards the development of the Mombasa-Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone whereas the World Bank will finance transformative projects in the nation's arid and semi-arid areas. Finally, the French Development Agency committed ~\$640 million in a 400MW capacity wind farm.

There is continued technological innovation in storage facilities and mobile agriculture. BrazAgro continues to promote its solar- powered grain silo dubbed Kikapu. Similarly, the Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with USAID-KAVES, Bell Industries, Vestergaard, GrainPro, among others, continued to promote Hermetic Storage Technology bags which can store grains and cereals for up to two years.

The private sector has also leveraged on the increased mobile penetration. FarmForce, a mobile platform ideal in managing contract farming programs, enables inventory management and data collection. Most importantly, it allows farmers to record anticipated yields facilitating coordinated market access. A \$32,000 grant to Kenya's meteorological department will facilitate the disbursement of climate related information through an SMS platform further enabling information access.

Kenya's cotton industry is set to benefit greatly following a \$32.9million agreement among various stakeholders aimed at filling gaps along the value chain. Similarly, Cotton On is committed to sell products in its Australian retail stores whereas mining company Base Titanium is working with community-based organizations through its Community Livelihood project to promote cotton farming, in addition to potato and livestock farming.

Government policy regulation include; ~\$58 million agreement allowing Scotland farmers to export potato seeds, a move cited to pile pressure on local seed development & production and the importation of maize from Uganda and Tanzania. Finally, farmers called on to the government to intervene in the ailing sugar industry characterized by corruption, inefficiencies and middlemen.

Tanzania

Tanzania's economic transformation, focusing on industrialization and laying a foundation for reductions in post-harvest loss through better infrastructure and transport links which will reduce times for the transport of crops. In this past period, a number of infrastructural development initiatives spearheaded by various sectors were announced. The National Microfinance Bank (NMB) and CRDB Plc earmarked ~\$27 million and \$460 million respectively towards post-harvest storage infrastructure and credit products. The Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) increased its cargo haulage capacity to two million tonnes per annum from 600, 000 following a rail revamp. Finally, a \$7.6 billion loan from China's Export-Import Bank (EXIM) will construct a standard gauge railway to link the Dar es Salaam port with Burundi, Rwanda and DR Congo.

In food processing, the Bakhresa Group opened a \$120 million fruit and vegetable processing factory with a capacity to process between 20,000 and 25,000 tonnes of fruit per year. Further, the government pledged 10,000 acres of land to the company for a sugarcane plantation and a processing plant.

Notable contributions in storage include; setting up of agricultural warehouses worth ~\$450, 000 following an agreement between Kilimanjaro based Union of Christian Churches and Burg Warberg. Similarly, Swiss Port spent \$13 million on improving its import and export facilities.

There is continued effort by the various players in the country to enhance access to new markets; potato farmers and institutions are set to benefit through the Potato Trade Mission following a partnership between Tanzania and Netherlands. Farmers will access new markets whereas institutions in the sector will benefit from capacity building. Similarly, Arusha onion growers sold their produce to South Sudan in partnership with the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA). Finally, Tanzania carried trials of GM maize, developed by the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project, Tanzania is among a few countries in the continent who have embraced GM crops.

And in mobile agriculture, International charity, Farm Africa's mobile app will equip sesame farmers with proper farming techniques whereas Kenya's Capture Solutions extended its mobile based applications among them; soil testing, to Tanzania.

Nigeria

The federal government's launch of the Green Alternative: Agriculture Promotion Policy 2016-2020, an agriculture roadmap for economic diversity, reinforced efforts in enabling agricultural development. The economic diversification effort is timely in reviving the economy, which has been characterized by high inflation and stringent fiscal policies. In pursuant of this, the Central Bank of Nigeria committed N1.7trillion whereas banks agreed to a single digit- 9 per cent interest rate on agricultural based loans in addition to earmarking billions towards the sector. Similarly, the Bank of Industry in partnership with development partners signed N10billion agro-mechanized deals. Finally, Old Mutual and the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA)'s set up a \$200 million fund for agricultural projects.

Other notable contributions include: a \$9million equity investment by the AfDB in the Fund for Agricultural Finance in Nigeria (FAFIN). FAFIN is a private equity fund whose primary focus is on SMEs fixing broken value chains to increase efficiencies, reduce post-harvest loss, and increase smallholder farmer incomes and profitability. Similarly, the World Bank earmarked \$200 million towards livestock development.

There were notable innovative approaches across the value chain which include; an electronic agricultural information platform launched by the government to supplement government-trained agricultural extension workers' efforts; ColdHubs' solar-powered walk-in stations in markets and farms and Farmcrowdy, which connects investors to farmers allowing them to engage in digital agriculture. Finally, Wetin App, a smart phone application by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development dispatches flood-related forecasting.

The government developed a pesticide to fight tomato absoluta, a crop killing moth which devastated the tomato industry with more than 90 percent crop ruin in the last previous quarter. Additional government policy/initiatives include; the establishment of the Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service 2016 which will prevent the introduction of exotic pests and diseases and finally, a proposed bill in the national assembly which will enforce a 20% cassava inclusion in bread and confectionaries.

Malawi

In the past quarter, adverse climatic changes and an El Niño induced drought plummeted previous food security efforts across Sub-Saharan Africa. The failed/below average harvest effects will be felt until April 2017 with La Niña like effects being recorded in some countries. In April 2016, Malawi's government declared a state of emergency and vulnerability assessments by the United Nations reported 6.7million people were food insecure. As a result, post-harvest initiatives have been minimal with major stories related to food crisis response assistance via collaborative efforts among government, and humanitarian/development agencies.

Funding aimed at access to food and building resilience include: ~\$17.3 million from AfDB to procure maize for replenishing the Strategic Grain Reserves (SGR); Oxfam's cash transfers to 32,189 households in eight districts and a US and Japanese government donation of US \$70.46 million and US \$5 million respectively to WFP Malawi. In addition, a €30 million European Investment Bank (EIB) funding will enhance Malawi's agricultural storage capacity. The initiative, developed in collaboration with USAID and the National Bank of Malawi (NBM), will primarily target agri-storage projects spearheaded by the private sector.

Technological innovation is reported by the civil society. For example; a portable device for rapid detection of aflatoxins, or poisonous chemicals developed by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and WFP's Share the MealApp, launched to aid fundraising efforts towards providing meals to 58,000 school children.

Notably, the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) established an air corridor to test potential humanitarian use of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) and finally Farm Radio Trust and Access Agriculture are enabling farmer to farmer video access for information sharing.

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