



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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10th – 14th October, 2016

#NileCooperation

Rainwater harvesting, which has not been part of the traditional drive for agricultural development in the Nile Basin region, is beginning to be mainstreamed in national agricultural and water development policies, and supported through training of farmer associations, the preparation and dissemination of best practice guides and design manuals, and the setting up of demonstrations on appropriate technologies.

#StateofRiverNileBasin.

<https://web.facebook.com/NileBasinInitiative/>

Egypt and Sudan sign Cooperation Agreements, highlight need for free trade

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Sudan's Omar al-Bashir signed a "comprehensive strategic partnership" document along with other agreements on Wednesday at the Presidential Palace in Cairo. Sisi inaugurated on Wednesday the first round of the presidential-level committee between Egypt and Sudan "in an effort to consolidate partnership in all fields." [...] Egypt and Sudan are both Nile Basin countries. Among the pressing issues affecting their relations is the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) which has almost reached completion.

<http://bit.ly/2debZlc>

Ethiopia to overtake Kenya as Eastern Africa's top economy

Ethiopia's economy is expected to overtake Kenya's this year, buoyed by massive government spending on infrastructure that has kept the Horn of Africa nation on the list of the world's fastest-growing economies in the past 10 years. [...] Ethiopia's economy is expected to grow further, riding on the state-led investment in infrastructure, according to the African Economic Outlook report. [...] Ethiopia's ongoing projects include the \$5 billion Grand Renaissance Dam, with a generation capacity of 6,000 megawatts, which is expected to earn the country \$1 billion annually from electricity sales, including exports.

<http://bit.ly/2dlyDZc>

Rwanda, Uganda to strengthen ties

Rwanda and Uganda will continue to strengthen bilateral ties on wide-ranging issues, officials from the two

countries have said. They were speaking during celebrations to mark the 54th Independence anniversary of Uganda in Kigali, on Saturday. The anniversary celebrations brought together several envoys accredited to Rwanda, heads of international organisations, and senior officials from both countries.

<http://bit.ly/2dCTTAI>

Tanzania, Congo sign deal for joint petroleum exploration

Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo signed a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday for joint exploration and development of hydrocarbons in Lake Tanganyika. The lake, which straddles the border between Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Zambia, is the world's second largest by volume and second deepest, according to officials.

<http://bit.ly/2dltkJ8>

Kenya, Rwanda turn to Uganda for maize imports worth \$6.6m

Uganda has come to the rescue of Kenya and Rwanda, selling both countries more than 11,502 tonnes of maize worth \$6.65 million over the past two months. This comes even as Zambia joins Tanzania in imposing a maize exports ban in order to build its reserves. Data from the East Africa Grain Handlers' Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network shows that in the past two months, Kenya imported 11,303 tonnes of maize from Uganda valued at \$4.61 million, mostly entering through the Busia border, while Rwanda has received 4,344 tonnes of maize worth \$2.04 million through its Gatuna border.

<http://bit.ly/2dBniKT>

Tanzania secures \$259m funding for power grid link with Kenya

Tanzania has secured \$258.82-million from the African Development Bank and



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the Japan International Cooperation Agency for a high-voltage electricity line to connect its national power grid to Kenya's, its power utility said on Sunday. The 400 kV line will be completed within two years and is part of efforts to deepen integration between the two countries' economies, Tanzania's Tanesco said in a statement on its website.

<http://bit.ly/2dHLDOJ>

Reducing risks to food insecurity from climate change

As climate change evolves, food and agriculture need to follow suit. Rising temperatures, changes in rainfall, erratic weather patterns and the prevalence of pests and diseases resulting from climate change threaten agricultural productivity and therefore undermine global food security. Simultaneously, the world's population is growing steadily and expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050. To meet this demand, agriculture and food systems must adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and become more resilient, productive and sustainable.

<http://bit.ly/2dvgUCb>

Sudan FM 'confident' Ethiopian dam won't harm Egypt

Q&A with Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour: We are confident about the safety of the dam. We cannot gamble the safety of Sudan to support Ethiopia's building a dam that could destroy Egypt or us. We made sure that the dam is being built in a safe way so that Sudan is not harmed. I reassure that the negotiations that followed the three presidents' signing

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the preliminary agreement on the GERD included political pledges that Ethiopia will not enjoy the benefits of the dam if Egypt or Sudan are subject to any harm. Sudan also made political pledges that Egypt's water security cannot be jeopardised.

<http://bit.ly/2dLpH65>

Africa's Nile Basin countries should invest in rain, not big infrastructure projects

In July 2016, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and over 1000 experts gathered in Dar es Salaam during the Africa Water Week to discuss new pathways for development and increased investment in water infrastructure. The challenges are huge; the El Nino of last year showed the exposure of African economies to the vagaries of weather. Climate change is expected to add additional risk and uncertainty in large parts of the continent. The stakes are high too; population growth, poverty alleviation and rapid urbanization are asking for deep transformation and a better management of scarce resources to contribute to inclusive sustainable growth.

<http://bit.ly/2dctJ3m>



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