

KGTF NEWSLETTER

February 2023

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FEATURE STORY

The World Bank Opening Learning Course (OLC) - Bite Sized Learning Series for Soil Management



Sustainable soil management and climate change mitigation bring great benefits in improving soil health and crop yields and achieving food security. **The World Bank** Agriculture and Food Global Practice, in partnership with the **Korea Rural Development Administration (RDA)**, organized **Bite Sized Learning Series (Bite+)** to introduce the rich experience of the RDA that has benefited the World Bank's engagement in client countries regarding soil testing, soil information systems, and climate-smart agriculture. The Bite+ includes expert presentations on (i) soil functions, (ii) soil investigation, (iii) soil mapping, (iv) digitalization of soil information systems, (v) soil properties, and (vi) climate-smart agriculture, and virtual site visits to the relevant facilities. This Bite+ provides an opportunity for soil management experts, from researchers to senior management officials, to understand the need for investments in agricultural soil fertility management through Korea's experience in designing and implementing the related programs. Watch the Bite+ Series to learn how Korea developed sophisticated methods to improve the soil management system.

English - [Soil Management Bite Sized Learning Series \(English\)](#)

Russian - [Soil Management Bite Sized Learning Series \(Russian\)](#)

The Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGTF) supported the partnership between the World Bank and the RDA for the Soil Management Bite Sized Learning Series through the **KGTF Year 7 Grant Program - Leveraging technology for Uzbekistan's agricultural modernization** (TTL: Sergiy Zorya, Lead Agriculture Economist, Agriculture and Food GP). Sergiy Zorya participated in the Global Agriculture ODA Forum, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Korea (MAFRA), on November 21 and 22, 2022. He gave a presentation on the modernization of soil testing and smart farming for green growth in Uzbekistan and had a bilateral meeting with soil management experts in the RDA for continued collaboration.

KGTF PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

The Africa-Korea AgTech Innovation Challenge and Summit



The Africa-Korea Agtech Innovation Challenge was launched by the World Bank on February 8 and 9, 2023, with the support of the **Korean Green Growth Trust Fund (KGTF)** and the **Korea World Bank Partnership Facility (KWPF)**. The event aimed to identify and collaborate with innovators of **disruptive agricultural technologies (DATs)** from Korea, Kenya and Uganda and create bridges between innovators and incorporate DATs into their businesses. The event held a session on learning from other successful agricultural innovation ecosystems and the growth of scalable DATs in Africa over the last decade.

DATs are considered as digital and non-digital innovations that enable smallholder farmers to leapfrog their current constraints and improve their yields, incomes, nutritional status, and climate resilience. These technologies range from mobile apps to digital identities for farmers, solar applications for agriculture, portable agriculture devices, and bio-fortified foods. The challenge invited DATs whose solutions address one of the following three themes: **1) Improving agricultural productivity and efficiency, 2) Improving market access and providing downstream and upstream linkages, and 3) Financial inclusion of farmers.**



21 finalists were selected from the online application process, which closed on 30th November 2022. Three winners from distinct categories were awarded from the 21 startups. The finalists presented their solutions at the **Africa-Korea Agtech Innovation Summit** in Nairobi, Kenya, on February 8 and 9, 2023. The Summit showcased the finalists to key government officials from Kenya, Uganda and South Korea, World Bank stakeholders, prominent accelerators and venture capital firms (VCs). The winning solutions would have an opportunity to join the [One Million Farmers Platform](#) in Kenya. The Challenge and Summit were supported by the **KGTF Year 8 Grant - Leveraging Digital Technologies for Scaling up Climate Smart Agriculture in Kenya** (TTL: Vinay Kumar Vutukuru, Senior Agriculture Economist, Agriculture and Food GP).

NEWS



The World Bank and the World Resources Institute's Ross Center for Sustainable Cities will host [Transforming Transportation 2023](#) at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, DC, on March 14 and 15, 2023. This conference will give transport professionals a unique opportunity to reunite and experience innovative ways of learning, engaging, and creating new connections. They will discuss ongoing challenges such as climate change, macroeconomic instability, and more inclusive, safe, sustainable, and efficient transportation.



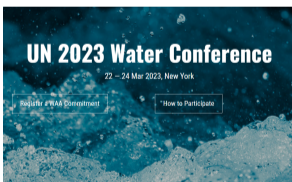
The World Bank Transport Global Practice will organize the **First Annual World Bank Conference on Transport Economics** on March 16, 2023, on the sidelines of Transforming Transportation 2023. The purpose of the annual conference is to serve as a place where **young economists and transport specialist** doing research on transportation issues relevant to developing countries present and discuss their work with researchers, policymakers, and transport practitioners. The Transport GP invites advanced PhD students, post-doctoral researchers, and junior assistant professors to submit innovative research papers that study transportation issues, such as 1) Interplay between transport and climate change, 2) Transport, logistics, and trade, including impact on food insecurity and supply chain, 3) Transport and the economics of cities and land use planning, 4) Transport funding and financing, including PPPs, 5) Transport equity and inclusion, and 6) Macroeconomic and fiscal implications of transport investments.

RECENT EVENTS



[The International Workshop on Land Use Planning and Land Administration: Integration and Decentralization](#) was hosted by the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation of Nepal at the Land Management Training Center in Dhulikhel, Nepal, on February 16 and 17, 2023. The event aimed to create a platform to share research, international practices and professional experiences in the fields of land administration and land use planning and learn international knowledge and experiences on integration and decentralization of land administrative services in the local context of Nepal. The World Bank and the KGTF supported the event as strategic partners. One representative from the [Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements \(KRIHS\)](#) attended the workshop and presented Korea's greenbelt, urban expansion control and agricultural land protection policies.

UPCOMING EVENTS



[The UN 2023 Water Conference](#) will be held in New York, the United States, from March 22 to 24, 2023. The Governments of Tajikistan and the Netherlands will jointly host the conference and organize an opening and closing ceremony, six plenary meetings and five multi-stakeholder interactive dialogues. The conference is expected to adopt the [Water Action Agenda](#) as a main outcome to meet the global water-related goals and targets. It will also feature a number of high-level special events and side events prepared by the UN Member States and other stakeholders under the theme of Water for Sustainable Development, 2018–2028. Participants will discuss transboundary water cooperation for creating a new platform to consolidate water-related data, advancing sustainable lake management, and using lakes and other wetlands as nature-based solutions.

KGGI WBG KOREA OFFICE GREEN GROWTH INNOVATION TEAM



The Energy and Extractives Team, EEX

On February 3, 2023, EEX team met with Korea Energy Agency (KEA) in Seoul to find common ground to host "the 2nd WB EAP Energy Transition Conference" in September 2023 and discuss the theme and details of the conference and capacity building activities. For Mongolia Transport Development Support, funded by the KGTF, the activity seeks to launch a preliminary assessment to evaluate the access of potential e-mobility, e-mobility solutions, and their impacts on the power system in Mongolia, identify policy framework to be strengthened and potential investment

opportunities and develop a national e-mobility roadmap as part of the energy transition. We have received EOIs from 26 firms. Four shortlisted firms will soon be submitting their proposals. On February 22, EEX team discussed the collaboration between the ESP Secretariat and the KGGTF on Energy Storage Study Tour in Korea for WB Clients regarding grid-scale stationary battery energy storage systems, circular economy, and e-mobility. ESP Secretariat will have a preliminary meeting with Korea Battery Industry Association (K-BIA) soon.



The Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Team, ENB

For Environment and Climate Change Innovation in East Asia, ENB is putting together policies and best practices of Korean innovations in plastic circularity into a section in the overall innovation stocktaking exercise for the ASEAN countries. The team made significant progress in terms of articulating Korean waste management innovations in collection and segregation, which aligns with needs of client countries. The team has also added a new activity on "Greening the Renewables" that aims to harness and synthesize lessons learned from Korea's rich experience with development of marine and coastal renewable energy generation capacity. Most recently, the team has initiated discussions with various regional ENB teams on interest for SWM study tours to Korea. The Combatting the Plastic Waste Crisis in the Philippines: Implementing Extended Producer Responsibility with Lessons Learned from Korea, report supported by the Korea WB Office has been finalized and awaiting appropriate forewords. Building on the report, KGGTF grant has been received to support capacity building.



The Urban, Resilience, and Land Team, URL

Smart and Green cities: The Smart Cities proposal for the Mongolia is under discussion with the country team to support the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development and City Administrations of Darkhan and Erdenet in building community capacity for resilient housing. In addition, the task team is preparing the scoping mission to Jakarta, Indonesia, to confirm the scope and priorities, identify the client's needs and requests and gather all the necessary information. In collaboration with the LH, the task team will work together to generate and disseminate knowledge on Korea's territorial development and urban regeneration, and identify models that can help developing countries build capacity in this field by developing knowledge products. ICT-based Land and Property Valuation in ASEAN: The task team has elaborated a detailed template for the property valuation case studies, which will include recommendations on the most pressing technological, human resources and institutional challenges in property valuation and taxation infrastructure. Recognizing client demand and soaring interest in property valuation, the task team will carry out eight case studies (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Korea).

KGGTF K-PARTNERS



K-Partner Newsletters

KEPCO - Korea Electric Power Corporation
[Newsletter, February 2023](#)

KOTI - Korea Transport Institute
[Newsletter, February 2023 \(Korean\)](#)

KRIHS - Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements
[Newsletter, February 2023 \(Korean\)](#)

About KGGTF

The Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF) is the green growth partnership between the World Bank Group (WBG) and the Republic of Korea. Since its inception in 2012, as a technology-driven and implementation-focused trust fund, the KGGTF has supported partner countries in their innovative and sustainable solutions, strategies, and investments geared towards Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development (GRID). The KGGTF portfolio has now supported 196 green growth programs and activities across the world, reaching a total of \$106 million and leveraging over \$17 billion in WBG lending and external co-financing.

For more information about KGGTF activities please visit our website www.wbgkgtf.org.

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