

# UPDATE ON KENYAN HORTICULTURE

*Brought to you by the Kenya Horticultural Development Program (KHDP) — a USAID-funded project aimed at increasing incomes through smallholder production and employment in the horticulture industry. KHDP works with public and private sector agencies to provide technical and marketing assistance to growers throughout Kenya. KHDP's main agribusiness partners include grower associations, input suppliers, processors, exporters, research institutions and trade associations.*

**“Mapato zaidi kwa kupitia kilimo bora”**

- **Ministry of Trade and Industry confirms Interim Framework Agreement on EPAs**
- **Horticultural Crops Development Authority celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
- **EU Food and Veterinary Office team impressed with Kenya's control systems**
- **USDA/APHIS to fast-track African horticultural import approvals**
- **Smallholders gaining from floriculture**
- **FM stations plugging horticulture**
- **MOA completes major domestic market study**

The industry breathed a collective sigh of relief on November 23<sup>rd</sup> when the Government of Kenya gave its official blessing to the new trade convention of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the EU. This will allow horticultural products to retain duty-free entry to EU markets for another 25 years, subject to some further negotiations scheduled for 2008. This is just one area where the strength of public and private sector cooperation was demonstrated in November. The MOA through HCDA, KEPHIS and KARI were all actively supporting the industry in different ways during the month. Horticulture also featured highly in the media with mainly positive coverage, and several local FM stations starting up and planning new programmes on horticulture. Despite problematic exchange rates, escalating energy costs and chaos on the roads, 2007 was a good year for the horticulture industry (see KHDP Horticulture Market News for October), with growth of both local and export markets. And the prospects look good for next year. On this positive note, KHDP wishes all our readers a **Joyful and Peaceful Christmas Season and a Happy New Year**

**A Million Tea Trees planted**



KHDP partner Earth oil is working with 500 growers in Naro Moru to supply *Melaleuca* (Tea Tree) oil to the Body Shop

## National Task Force on Horticulture

### FVO mission visit

Passion fruit and French bean exporters can breathe a sigh of relief after the EU's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) mission gave Kenya's control systems for monitoring pesticide residues a positive review. The mission was in Kenya between 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November to inspect national systems for monitoring horticultural exports, with an emphasis on French beans and passion fruit. As market leader for fine beans in the EU, Kenya has an excellent record and is working hard to ensure that all shipments adhere to the approved minimum residue levels (MRLs). There are no MRLs approved for passion fruit so growers are very restricted in the pest control chemicals which they can use.

The mission was coordinated by the task force with KEPHIS taking the lead. The EU team spent two days visiting growers to observe production systems. They also spent a day with PCPB; visited exporter pack houses and the HCDA. In a provisional report given to stakeholders before leaving, the team indicated the following:

- a) Traceability at the producer level for beans and passion fruits is well organized.
- b) There is an official pesticide usage control mechanism which is stipulated in the Kenyan legal system but it is not fully utilized.
- c) Pest control products used in passion fruits and beans are not always registered specific to the crop; rather, some are registered for

- vegetables but not specific to beans or other crops.
- d) Only two products are specific to passion fruits – an herbicide and an insecticide
  - e) Exporters and growers liaise with the importers to indicate which products can be used for pest control.
  - f) Many pesticide labels do not match the registration information.
  - g) There is a need to increase MRL data collection on pesticides in use for beans and passion fruit. However, this data is not harmonized in the EU member states.
  - h) There is a need to improve the institutional networking for all institutions involved in pesticide usage and control.

The mission recommended that the inconsistency between pesticide labels and registration information should be reviewed and harmonized. Overall, the evaluators were impressed by the organization of the public and private sector but agreed that some improvements could be made, particularly at PCPB, where registration of chemicals is a slow process, and registration of safer and more effective agrochemicals can not be accommodated in a quick and efficient manner.

### US fast-tracks African import approvals

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will begin issuing import permits for fruits and vegetables from Africa under a new streamlined process, according to a press release and information supplied by Lloyd Garcia, the USDA representative in Kenya.

Import permits for peeled baby carrots, husked, silk-free baby corn from Kenya, Ribes Species such as currants and gooseberries from South Africa and peppers, eggplant and okra from Ghana will be issued under APHIS's new streamlined approval process.

Under the new process, a notice announcing the availability of the pest risk analysis will be published in the US Federal Register for one month with the opportunity for public comment. After the comment period ends, all comments are reviewed and if appropriate, a notice is published in the Federal Register announcing that USDA will begin issuing import permits for the commodity.

More information about USDA's fruit and vegetable regulations is available at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov). Click on the Quarantine 56 hot issues link.

### Kenya Horticulture Council - KHC

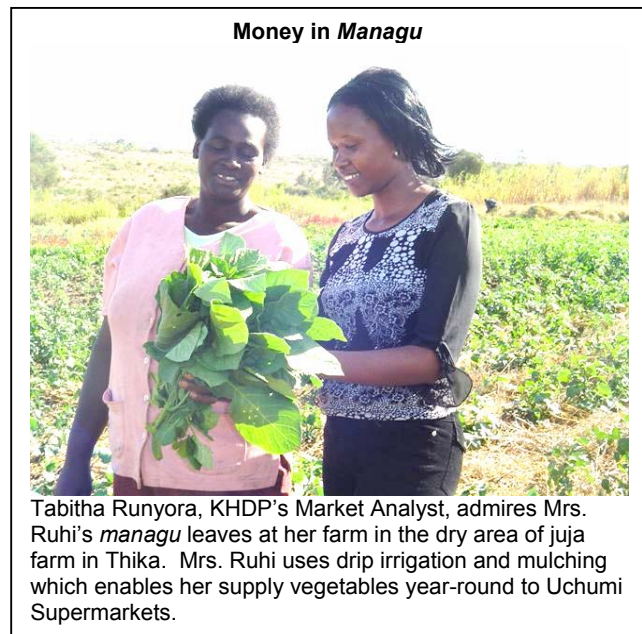
KHC and HCDA announced that they would be funding a national stand at Fruit Logistica in Berlin in February

2008. Companies who want to participate should contact KHC. The draft Business Plan for the WSSD partnership project ' *Research and Development Fund in Diversification of Products and Markets, and Post Harvest Control in the Floriculture Sector of Kenya* ' was completed.

### Ministry of Agriculture

The HCDA held the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration lunch at the HCDA HQ on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Dr Romano Kiome, Permanent Secretary, MOA, was the guest of honor. He complimented HCDA on its past achievements and stressed the need for new technology adoption, and a commercial approach to agriculture, at all levels.

The Task Force on Horticulture Marketing and Market Infrastructure completed its major study on the domestic market. The study was presented to the Permanent Secretary with a list of new investment recommendations for consideration by the government. It comprises a main report (Volume I) with separate volumes on the Nairobi market (Volume II) and Rest of Kenya (Volume III).



### KHDP News

#### Smallholder Flowers

Flowers have received a lot of attention this month with KARI and KHDP making presentations on smallholder floriculture.

In Thika District, KARI hosted a colorful field day where growers were shown demonstration plots and received technical and market information on growing summer flowers such as Mobydick, Arabicum, and Stachys

Speaking at a FPEAK Hortifair workshop in Eldoret, KHDP Senior Agronomist Lydia Njuguna said that “Kenyan Smallholders have cut a niche for themselves in a business that for long has been regarded as capital and resource intensive.” Lydia gave a presentation to a packed room on “Opportunities for Smallholder Flower Growers” and generated much interest including media coverage by Kass FM and Sayare TV.

The presentation highlighted flowers that can be grown by smallholders and the opportunities available, noting that demand for bouquets in both domestic and overseas markets has created new income potential for smallholders. The farmers are now planting “fillers” predominantly green foliage and a range of colored flowers that are less resource intensive and can be grown in open fields. The demand for bouquets is also on the rise, making up 10% of flower exports in 2006.

Smallholder farmers plant a wide variety of flowers including the most popular Arabicum, Eryngium, Mobydick, and Omis.

In Mombasa, KHDP’s Deputy Director for Business Development, Ben Kiragu gave a presentation on “Value Addition Opportunities for Smallholder Growers in Floriculture”. Speaking at the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of the Donor BDS Coordination Group, Ben used examples of KHDP partners to show how smallholders and processors can work together to add value to products before export. The event brought together senior level officials from the private and public sector, as well as donor community, to discuss and share practical experiences related to poverty alleviation and development through the private sector.

### Local market fruit and vegetables

KHDP and Seminis completed 50 demonstration plots countrywide that were planned for the year, during which growers learned how to plant different varieties of hybrid onions, cabbage and tomatoes. The varieties have been well received, and there is strong demand for the seed and associated technical assistance package. KHDP has similar partnerships with five other input suppliers.

KHDP Senior Agronomist in Nanyuki, Mbili Mbebe recorded a radio program for Kamba vernacular radio station; Mbaitu FM on “Wealth in the Farm... Farmers’ Aid”, providing information on passion fruit, Sukuma wiki, and tomato production. KHDP invites everyone to listen in to the Friday night programs scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007 and 4<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The series is supported by NGO FIT Resources and other agricultural stakeholders and is aimed at raising the level of agricultural information provided to farmers in rural areas.





### Essential oils

In a joint venture between KHDP partner Earth oil and Body Shop International, 700,000 tea trees have been planted in Naro Moro and it is expected that growers will reach the 1 Million mark by the end of 2007. “Tea Tree” or *Meleleuca*, is a type of bottle brush tree which produces medicinal oil in its leaves. The oil is used to prepare a wide range of cosmetics and medicinal creams which cure rashes and improve skin health.

### Passion Fruit

KHDP Agronomist George Okundi gave a presentation on “High Value Horticultural Crops for Domestic, Regional and International Markets” to a workshop in Kakamega, organized by HCDA. George highlighted some of the crops that have local and regional markets but also meet the air freight criteria for export from nearby Eldoret Airport. He also stressed “farming as business”, showing how to calculate gross margins using chilli and passion fruit as examples relevant to farmers in the area.

### KHDP Staff appointments

		
Rachael Ndune <b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Assistant at the Coast</b>	Michael Odhiambo <b>BDS Manager Coast</b>	Mary Nyale <b>Agronomist Coast</b>
		
Tabitha Runyora <b>Market Analyst</b>		Grace Nzou <b>Communications Manager</b>

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### Field Offices

Thika, Kisumu, Eldoret, Mombasa, Nanyuki

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