

UPDATE ON KENYAN HORTICULTURE

Brought to you by the Kenya Horticultural Development Program (KHDP) — a USAID-funded project to increase 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.

- **FPEAK 2007 regional Hortifairs**
- **KFC hosts Tesco to discuss Carbon Emissions and Trade Miles**
- **WRENmedia holds final Bridging the GAP Workshop**

February was also a busy month for the industry with the spotlight being once more on SPS/environmental issues and preparations for the Miami Floral Expo and the FPEAK regional Hortifairs. The Hortifairs have been very successful in taking horticultural expertise to the doorstep of rural growers and the first for 2007 was planned for March. We are particularly pleased with the success of a group of Samburu women in Wamba who, with a little help from KHDP's Mbili Mbebe and Jim Vernon, have now become full-time horticultural farmers. They are growing hybrid vegetable varieties using drip irrigation and other cost-saving technologies which are part of the KHDP and its partners. Kenya's First Lady, Mrs Lucy Kibaki was the chief guest at a Nutrition Symposium and Launch of the Nutritionist of the Year Award, held in Nairobi, where participants heard of the contribution of good nutrition to longevity. In her speech, Mrs Kibaki emphasized the health benefits of consuming adequate amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables by all, especially those suffering from HIV/AIDS. KHDP was represented by Director, Steve New and Anne Wangalachi who gave a presentation on nutritional supplements, including the benefits of horticultural crops and products. WRENmedia wrapped up its DFID-funded "Bridging the GAP" project with a one-day workshop in Nairobi. The Kenya Flower Council (KFC) organized a meeting for all key stakeholders, and addressed by Tesco Director Richard Brasher, to devise a national strategy to deal with the "Carbon Emissions and Trade Miles" issues.

The KHDP is always trying to make *Update* as interesting and informative as possible. Please contact Update Editor Anne Wangalachi for comments and suggestions at anne@fintrac.com — Steve New, KHDP Director

Hybrid haven



Growers, like Joshua Adoka of Saint John Youth Group in Kitale have seen for themselves the benefits of using hybrid varieties of vegetables. From their 0.5 acre of Gloria F1 cabbage, the group harvested 5,050 heads and made KSh 64, 600.

National Task Force on Horticulture

Throughout the month, the Task Force was actively involved in coordinating various industry issues mainly on SPS, stakeholder relations, publicity, follow up actions on the HCDA Order 2006 and the diagnostic study on EU Regulation 882/2004. During the monthly Task Force meetings discussions were held on the EU/KEPHIS proposal on Horticultural Produce Phytosanitary Certification and Quality Assurance and the next steps after the USDA/APHIS product evaluation. Preparations for the regional joint Task Force, FAO and UNCTAD workshop on Good Agricultural Practices were finalized. The Workshop is part of the Task Force's on-going activities on appropriate good agricultural practices to foster national food safety and quality, and sustainable natural resource management. By February 23, only two interceptions had been recorded for 2007, confirming that Kenya through KEPHIS and other parties is working hard to comply with international SPS requirements. For more details on the work of the Task Force, contact the MD, KEPHIS through kephis@nbnet.co.ke

Local Market Fruit and Vegetables

Countrywide, KHDP and partners provided technical assistance and training to growers in commercializing their production of many varieties of vegetables, orange fleshed sweet potato, butter nut squash and watermelon. The harvest season for tomato, butter nut squash and sweet potato is on with farmers making

record sales from their crops. Peter Ruhi, a KHDP-assisted grower from the Central region made KSh 850,000 from his 2-acre tomato plot. Greenhouse production is catching on and growers are flocking to the Eldoret area to learn more about this technology. In Samburu, the Lohore Women's Group, who traditionally are pastoralists, successfully produced their first crops of kales, spinach and butternut squash. With skills acquired in vegetable production together with demonstrated benefits of hybrid varieties, the group is confident in their new-found "livelihood". "Thanks to KHDP's assistance we now have enough vegetables for our consumption and we will grow even more to sell in Wamba Market".

Horticulture has a big role to play in food security. Growers have been quick to adopt butternut squash and orange-fleshed sweet potato in all parts of the country. However, these crops are also becoming popular in Europe, and samples from joint KHDP and partner trials were sent to exporters this month. Large scale commercial production is a real possibility over the long term.

Chilli Products

Sustained interest in African Bird's Eye (ABE) chilli has seen KHDP assisted growers from the main growing areas supplying Mace Foods with more than 6.9 tonnes of dried product in February. The newest entrant is the Shimo La Tewa Prisons in Mombasa, who plan to plant 10 hectares, as part of the Government's Prisons' Food Security Plan. This in turn has increased tremendously the demand for ABE chilli seed, with growers at the Coast striving to meet it. To maintain the optimal quality as production increases, growers received training in crop management, proper picking and drying techniques from KHDP agronomists and consultant Umran Kaggwa. The research trials on varietal selection by Moi University, Mace Foods and KHDP are ongoing and we will report more in the next issue.

Vanilla and Spices

KHDP partner Vanilla and Jatropha Development Fund (VJDF) conducted training and provided assistance to farmers in the Western and Nyanza regions on establishment and management of vanilla fields and shade plants. At the Coast, farmers in Kwale have planted more than 500 Jatropha trees and will transplant their vanilla vines during the coming long rains. Vanilla planted in Malindi in 2005 is growing on fast after "looping", and it is expected to flower later this year.

Passion Fruit

In February, the average market price for fresh fruit rose by 50% from KSh 20 – KSh 30 per kilogram, and is expected to rise even further in March. The Kiamugumo Group in Central Province sold 8,795 kilograms of fresh fruit, earning more than KSh 175,900. Nationwide, demand for grafted passion fruit seedlings and requests for training are high with

In the field



Members of the Lohore Women's Group in Samburu District are grading their first harvest of kale. KHDP introduced hybrid varieties and new production techniques to the Group who plan to sale their surplus vegetables in the nearby market.



Rose Kibuchi, a grower in Central Kenya has been trained in pest management techniques such as early detection of pests by "scouting" and knows the benefits in boosting yields.

growers keen to meet the coming months' demand, after the January-February slack period. Training activities focused on nursery establishment, transplanting, orchard management as well as marketing and business development. An intensive programme for production of yellow varieties is currently being planned for the Coast Province, to meet projected requirements for processing. KHDP will be working jointly with growers, credit agencies and the MOA to develop yellow passion fruit as a major commercial crop on the coast.

Tree Crops

Thanks to the Cashew Productivity Enhancement Program, farmers from Malindi and Lamu harvested more than 20 tonnes of first grade nuts in February,

priced at KSh 34 per kilogram. This represents a 100% increase in their value compared to previous years. With better agronomic management of the trees the growers expect to get up to 100% improvements in yields. Plans are at an advanced stage to hold 45 macadamia field days during March and April in a joint venture between KARI, KHDP and the major nut processing companies.

Smallholder Flowers

On February 15, the Kenya Flower Council (KFC) organized a stakeholders' meeting to identify strategies for dealing with issues relating to Carbon Emissions and Trade Miles Requirements. The 68 participants included Dr Wilson Songa, Kenya's Agriculture Secretary and representatives from the major export companies, Government ministries, United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), World Flowers and Tesco, the UK's leading supermarket chain and one of the main UK buyers of Kenyan flowers. Discussions centered on presentations made by experts from UNEP, World Flowers and Tesco Director Richard Brasher. World Flowers had commissioned a study by Cranfield University to provide balanced information on carbon emissions and the "carbon footprint" of Kenyan air-freighted flowers and fresh produce. Overall, it emerged that Kenyan flowers had up to six times lower carbon emissions than those produced in European glasshouses with artificial heating and lighting when all aspects of production and transportation are included. There is a need to protect Kenya's highly successful floriculture industry because it is a major driver of socio-economic development. In assessing the impact of the various supply chains on greenhouse gas production, it is necessary to evaluate all production and transportation components.

KHDP and Jomo Kenyatta University continued their joint trials on assorted varieties of summer flowers and foliage crops with growers and at the University farm. Additionally, a growers' guide on selected summer flowers and foliage crops has been produced. Training and technical assistance was provided to smallholder growers in Central province by KARI Thika for production of Hydrangea, Zinnia and Scabiosa flowers, and on the cultivation of pigeon pea leaves as an ornamental product.

EurepGAP/SPS

WRENmedia, funded by DFID, held its last workshop on "Bridging the GAP" at the Nairobi Safari Club. "Bridging the GAP" was a project designed to improve the accuracy of media reports on the Kenyan horticulture industry; promote best examples of good agricultural practices (GAPs) and encourage communication for progress. During the workshop, participants had a chance to launch the finalized case studies dubbed "Voices from the Field", and recommended that they be used for educating farmers, consumers, exporters and as a reference by the

Nutrition matters



KHDP Communications Manager Anne Wangalachi speaking in favor of fruits and vegetables as rich sources of vitamins during the Nutrition Symposium of the Kenya Coalition for Action in Nutrition.

industry. Of the 19 case studies, 15 were prepared by Kenyan journalists and one by Timothy Mwangi, of KHDP. Thematic in nature, the case studies focus on proper pest and disease control, recordkeeping, safe use of chemical and farm inputs, collective marketing and proper product handling. Cosmas Kyengo of FPEAK gave a presentation on the current status of the EurepGAP protocol which covered aspects of its revision, launch of the EurepGAP Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Standard and its key features. Participants also voiced their concerns on implementation of EurepGAP and issues they would like tackled by the newly appointed EurepGAP Ambassador for developing countries. To know more about EurepGAP and the new IFA standard visit www.eurep.org

Contact KHDP

Kenya Horticultural Development Program

MPPS Building
Mombasa Road
P.O. Box 3074-00506
Nyayo Stadium, Nairobi
Phone: 20-556728/556807
Fax: 20-556804
E-mail: khdp@fintrac.com

Field Offices

Thika, Kisumu, Eldoret, Mombasa

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