



Breeding & Propagation Kenya Ltd

in their new location

Rose production in Kenya has continuously been growing and thus demand for high quality breeds has augmented. Olij, with almost a century of experience in the field of breeding, propagation, production and marketing have responded by constantly introducing improved unique rose varieties, with strong technical qualities.

With companies in the Netherlands, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ecuador and representatives worldwide, Olij have at their disposal a large selection of crossing parents, an innovative crossing-program and a refined selection method which they apply in different countries all over the world to produce excellent cutroses and potroses.

Known for their professional support and after sales, especially within turn key projects, Olij varieties meets high productivity, good vase-life, good transportability, low disease control and elegance criterion.

Olij breeding represents Spek Rozen varieties in East Africa and GARES a South Korean company in all countries of the world except in South Korea. They also represent Preesman cutroses plants

in Europe and Mexico.

In 2012, Olij sold their farm to Subati Flowers and relocated to South Lake Road in Naivasha where they have built a bravura farm. Building such a farm is no mean feat, bearing in mind the short span it has taken and that is why we at Hortfresh Journal sought to know more from Mr. Phillippe Ueys, General Manager Olij breeding.



How is the new place as compared to the previous?

The location is more attractive for our business. We are now on the main flower street of Kenya, easily accessible for all our relations and very central in Kenya. The altitude is lower than when we were in Kinangop, which means that now we can also present our varieties in a better way for growers looking for 'supermarket roses'.

When did you start the construction work?

We started building in September 2012

Why did you relocate?

We had the opportunity to sell the old farm and start fresh again.

Approximately what is the area of your new farm?

The land is about 50 acres and we have now built 3 ha of greenhouse of which 1 ha is for propagation purposes

How has been the process of establishing the new farm? What did you build first, what followed; up to where you are, and according to your plan what is remaining to be put up?

We first needed to organise all the official paperwork and licenses before starting the project; this all went quite smoothly.

Then we started leveling and building a reservoir for rainwater collection. In the meanwhile we started building our wetland.

Greenhouse construction started second half of September 2012 together with installation of packhouse, irrigation system, canteen, dress rooms for personnel.....

Mid December 2012 we started planting the showhouse and the budwood house and before the yearend all was planted.

We are now in the final stage of the construction; coldstore is basically finished and the propagation is also ready to start now.



Vijay Patel, Olij Kenya Managing Director





What are the new technologies that you have brought on board, advantages and when do you expect the plants to be ready?

The irrigation systems are completely computerized which guarantees us optimal utilization of water resources. In the propagation area we are using artificial light so we can stretch the day length guaranteeing better growth and production and quality. In the hardening area of the propagation we are using eb and flow tables. This means that we are giving the plants water from



below, straight to the roots and not from above as in traditional propagation situations. Giving water from above can create more diseases in the plants. Also we will do a solar energy project later this year. The cost of power in Kenya is among the highest in the world and has a big influence on our cost price. By using solar energy we will be able to bring down our energy cost and we will be less dependent of the power supply.

Currently which varieties are recently released and on high demand compared to others, their qualities and which are suitable for Kenya market?

Currently varieties with high demand and recently released are Monte Carlo, Penny lane and Times Square; a red, yellow and pink variety. They have good 'technical' properties so they grow well under the Kenyan climate conditions because of their headsize, length and vase-life; they are as well demanded in the different markets all

What are some of the challenges that you have been experiencing?

The main challenges were getting the project constructed within time. For this we were very dependent on the flow of material coming into the country. A total of about 20 containers were imported for this project.

What are your future plans?

We are planning to expand a bit more our growing area in the coming years but all will depend on the success of the first phase.

