



# Threat to market access for Kenya's beans and snowpeas to EU

Kenya's horticulture value is estimated to be over Kshs. 205 billion, with horticultural exports for 2011 valued at over Kshs. 91 billion, most of which is exported to the EU. French beans and snow peas provided over 6.9 billion Kshs (7.5 % of value).

Trade of high-value crops from Kenya to EU, especially French beans and snow peas provide a lucrative market for small scale growers, giving opportunities for market

access to horticultural producers' as well as rural economic development.

Despite all these impressive statistics, food safety and quality standards challenges abound like non-compliance with market requirements resulting in Interception of produce in the international market ; emerging issues related to constant change in MRLs, new EU regulations on pesticide and conformity of fruits and vegetables have

made it necessary to have in-depth analysis of our systems.

Kenya is the largest exporter of French beans and snow peas to the EU. Starting 1st January, 2013 EU imposed a 10% sampling restrictions on all beans and unshelled peas from Kenya, on grounds that there are insufficient guarantees on pesticide maximum residue levels (MRL) from Kenya's official control systems.

There are seven pesticides which are targeted for analysis namely:

Active ingredient	Trade name (s)
Chlopyrifos	Dusban
Acephate	Orthene
Dimethoate (over 25)	Dimetil, Degor, Folimat
Diaphenthuron	Duparc, Mecur, Pegasus
Indoxacarb	Avaunt
Methamidophos	Monitor
Methomyl	Methomex, Lannate, Acrinat

## Impact

### • Cost

Massive laboratory tests both locally and in the EU point of entry which will cost the Kenyan exporters. The average cost per sample is KSh 21,000(USD 253) and there are limited number of laboratories

### • Shortage

There may be a shortage of beans and peas starting February as growers fear to plant since they are not aware what is going to happen with the strict controls.

### • Non-compliance

to the new procedures will lead to KEPHIS suspending an exporters licence for 2 to 3 weeks whilst a full due diligence and traceability check is conducted.



Some exporters may reduce or stop the export business due to the stringent measures. This may lead to loss of jobs and revenue

**• Small holders**

Fear for MRL non compliance is a discouragement for exporters to buy beans from smallholder farmers. The small holders who produce approximately 70% of beans and over 80% of peas also fear to plant and this may result in shortage for beans and peas .

**• Export sales**

Estimated to go down by over 25% of beans and peas. This is approximately over 500 million Ksh.losses small holders revenue.

**• Lost livelihoods**

Discomfort in the main production areas as there is a foreseen loss a livelihood which is starting to create security fears due to large numbers of workers and farmers being rendered bankrupt.

Importers have started looking for suppliers from other competing countries such as Morocco, Egypt and Ethiopia among others.

**Local efforts made**

To save the Kenyan farmers and retain the earnings there has been an effort and Quick action by all stakeholders.

- The National Taskforce on horticulture has taken the lead and actively has brought on board all the stakeholders in the industry. This is to ensure that the country responds to MRL the threat together.

- KEPHIS continues to sample and test for multiple pesticides.
- Exporters have taken much greater control in crop spraying and retraining farmers.
- Horticulture Crops Development Authority (HCDA) and Fresh produce exporters association of Kenya (FPEAK) together with other stakeholders are working on a single, simple, national, spray protocol ( which all

- HCDA continues the registration of growers and value chain actors to enhance traceability
- In Kirinyaga the County commissioner has called in all value chain actors (farmers, government agencies, exporters, agents,/suppliers and agro dealers) to map out an action plan. The main thing is to encourage the farmers to do self-policing and assessment to ensure proper use of pesticides.



stakeholders use) to avoid confusion and duplication. FPEAK is taking a lead using available training materials as advised by GLOBALGAP, KenyaGAP, exporters and the National Technical working group.

**Future Considerations**

- Reactivate and update the monitoring and evaluation plan established after the last food and veterinary office (EU- FVO) inspection. There is need

to establish a routine evaluation programme to start generating data that can be used to defend the country. Sampling (probably by HCDA) followed by laboratory analysis (KEHIS) in Kenya and in a third laboratory for reference purposes.

- Continue with tolerance trials (product/crop combination) trials for the various pesticides under our environment
- Undertake a comprehensive pesticide use study in horticulture industry to determine which pesticides are in use and make a comparison with those registered.
- Strategic and targeted training for stakeholders depending on needs analysis.
- Need to evaluate the circumstances that led to the current scenario so as to inform on the best options moving forward including dealing with the EU

By Timothy Mwangi  
(Consultant agronomist)  
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