Editorial & Administration

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What it entails

Throughout the world hundreds of farmers are moving to a more ecologically sensitive farming. Consumers are increasingly demanding for environmentally-friendly grown products. They want safe, high-quality food, want to be protected thus the traceability process and at the same time they wish to see the countryside well looked after.

As a result modern horticulture has come revolving around improving the quality and quantity of production along with improving working conditions, reducing emissions and minimizing costs. It involves practicing sustainable growing methods in harmony with nature; to produce high quality, safe and fresh produce that meets international standards; being committed to reducing food miles and reducing wastage through repackaging and recycling. Some take it as practicing organic farming; others land stewardship, while others emphasize on empowerment of peasant communities.

The preciousness of the environment and its degradation over time has prompted the need for an action and consumer awareness to see that a farmer is agro ecologically considerate. Consumers have realised that their quality of life is intractably associated with the type of agriculture practiced, not only because of the quality of the food or produce, but also because agriculture is multifunctional producing a series of services.

While growers can grow products of good quality, as efficiently as possible, improving on quantity and caring for the environment, the suppressing factor remains to be getting equitable market opportunities for the produce. The ultimate challenge is to increase investment and research in agroecology and scale up projects that will benefit consumers and farmers. This will generate a meaningful impact on the income, consumer wellbeing, and environmental well being of all the population especially reducing climate change which has led to drought conditions in the region. Sustainable horticulture is required to achieve better living conditions.

dorothy rwaro

Contents

BASF's Crop Protection Opens office in Kenya

BASF is the world's leading Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics and performance products to agricultural products, fine chemicals as well as oil and gas. As a reliable partner BASF creates chemistry to help its customers in virtually all industries to be more successful.

The BASF Africa team

With its high-value products and intelligent solutions, BASF plays an important role in finding answers to global challenges such as climate protection, energy efficiency, nutrition and mobility. BASF posted sales of more than €50 billion in 2009 and had approximately 105,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN).

Pest control board chairperson Ms. Gladys Maina giving a speech during BASF's Launch

On March 26, 2010 BASF's Crop Protection division opened office in Nairobi, the first in a series of new offices in Africa, part of plans to triple sales on the continent within the next four years. The growth plans are based on a two-pronged strategy that centers around offering technical support and expertise to farmers and other agricultural professionals locally.

"In Africa, there are some professional growers with large operations and state-of-the art agronomic expertise as well as many small and mid-sized farmers working hard to move beyond subsistence farming," said Gabor Mehn, in charge of BASF's Crop Protection business in Africa and the Middle East. "We need to work locally to serve both of these groups with tailored products and agronomic services. That's why we are building up local sales teams that can offer agronomic support tailored to their markets."

This will be a challenge, but BASF is convinced that it is worth the effort. Although Africa has twice the agricultural area as Europe, it is farming 80 million hectares less than its neighbor to the North, according to FAO statistics.

Promoting sustainable agriculture through local services

Large, export-oriented farming operations will profit from BASF's portfolio of modern products as well as its global network of experts who understand the requirements of authorities and consumers in foreign markets.

Smallholder farmers looking to sell part of their surplus harvests, on the other hand, are eager to improve their farming practices and adopt modern technologies. To support these growers, BASF will provide agronomic advice and services as well as safe use training. "By putting growers and their needs at the center of all our activities, we will be able to grow with our customers in Africa," says Gabor Mehn on the occasion of the office opening in Kenya. "As we have demonstrated in India, farmers are highly motivated when they see the benefits of modern crop protection as part of an overall farm management system increasing their income and contributing to their health and prosperity."

In 2010 further office openings are planned in the Ivory Coast, Mali and Zambia. Until 2013 BASF will increase its presence on the continent with additional six offices.

In East Africa, BASF will focus on key vegetable crops such as green beans, tomatoes and green peas as well as ornamentals and cereals. As part of its growth strategy for Africa, the company plans to extend and enhance its services to additional countries and farmers across important crops such as cocoa, cotton, sugarcane, maize, specialty crops, sunflowers, coffee and rice.

About the Crop Protection division

With sales of 3.6 billion in 2009, BASF's Crop Protection division is a leader in crop protection and a strong partner to the farming industry providing well-established and innovative fungicides, insecticides and herbicides. Farmers use these products and services to improve crop yields and crop quality. Other uses include public health, structural/urban pest control, turf and ornamental plants, vegetation management, and forestry. BASF aims to turn knowledge rapidly into market success. The vision of BASF's Crop Protection division is to be the world's leading innovator, optimizing agricultural production, improving nutrition, and thus enhancing the quality of life for a growing world population.

The agricultural world is a fast-changing one. Having the latest information on new developments can make all the difference to anyone involved in the farming business. By putting this information at your fingertips, we can help make sure that you always stay on top.

GLOBAL G.A.P Passes the 100.000 Producer Mark

The worldwide expansion of GLOBALG.A.P has reached its highest level: more than 100,000 producers are certified against the GLOBALG.A.P or a GLOBALG.A.P benchmarked standard. “Fruit and Vegetables” still represent the most important scope; but also “Aquaculture” and “Flower and Ornamentals” the number of issued certificates is increasing. Southern Europe is the key distribution area: almost half of the certified producers originate from Italy (19,301), Spain (19,184) and Greece (11,817).

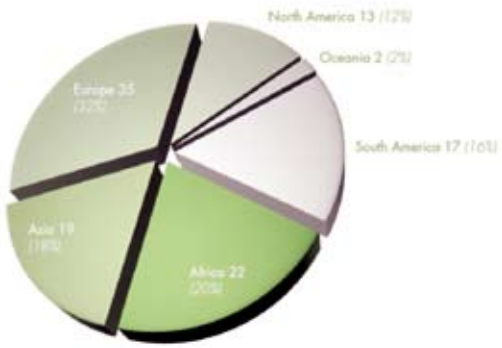
Meanwhile, the GLOBALG.A.P product list contains 300 products. The products that are most certified are apples (on 20,896 certified farms), followed by potatoes (9,249) and cherries (7,558).

The number of certified producers increased slightly in most of the countries where GLOBALG.A.P is established. The regional spreading did not change a lot: Europe still covers the largest part with 80%. A little more significant increase compared to the other continents can be observed in Africa and also in North America.

CERTIFIED PRODUCERS WORLDWIDE

Country	No. of certified Producers
Argentina	1059
Armenia	1
Australia	94
Austria	2362
Belarus	1
Belgium	3357
Belize	17
Bosnia/ Herzegegavina	100
Brazil	578
Bulgaria	9
Burkina faso	148
Cameroon	13
canada	50
Chile	2302
China	318
Colombia	559
Coata Rica	296
Cote d’Ivoire	194
Croatia	85
Cyprus	1021
Czech Republic	85
Denmark	79
Dominica	6
Dominican Republic	759
Ecuador	635
Egypt	359
Ethiopia	11
farce Isl.	6
France	3006
Gambia	1
Germany	8717
Ghana	871
Greece	11817
Guadeloupe	33
Guatemala	164
Guinea	41
Honduras	14
Hungary	1462
India	1989
Indonesia	5
Iran	1
Ireland	24
Israel	1438
Italy	19327
Jamaica	3
Japan	94
Jordan	16
Kenya	318
Korea (South)	46
Latvia	1
Labanon	2
Maccao	2
Macedonia	15
Madagascar	188
Malaysia	19
Mali	232
Malta	16
Martinique	50
Mexico	98
Moldova	6
Morocco	399
Mozambique	2
Namibia	14
Netherlands	5584
Netherlands Antilles	1
New Zealand	1678
Nicaragua	2
Norway	44
Oman	1
Pakistan	176
Palestinian territories	149
panama	31
Paraguay	50
Peru	1185
Philippines	5
poland	994
Potugal	375
Puerto Rico	3
Romania	48
Saint lucia	5
Saint Vincent/ Grenadines	53
Saudi Arabia	2
Senegasl	101
Serbia/Montenegro	36
Slovakia	18
Slovenia	13
South Africa	1882
Spain	19184
Sri Lanka	23
Suriname	1
Swaziland	4
Sweden	17
Switzerland	52
Syria	5
Taiwan	33
Tanzania	74
Thailand	597
Tunisia	234
Turkey	3988
Uganda	39
Ukraine	1
United Kingdom	49
United States	387
Uruguary	43
Venezuela	1
Vietanam	147
Zambia	3
Zimbabwe	14
Total	**102,267**

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH CERTIFIED PRODUCERS



Continent	Number of Certified Producers	Number of Certified Producers (%)	Number of countries with Certified producers
Africa	5142	5.0	22
Asia	4919	4.8	19
Europe	81900	80.1	35
North America	1450	1.4	13
Oceania	1772	1.7	2
South America	7084	6.9	17
Total	**102267**		**108**

As of April 2010

If the certification of individual producers (Option 1 and 3) is compared with the certification of producer groups (Option 2 and 4), it can be observed that the group certification gained importance in the last months: 31,710 producers are certified under Option 1 (31%; 2009: 33%) and 70,568 (69%; 2009: 67%) under Option 2.

New EU Ecolabel on organic food

The EU logo Commission Regulation No. 271/2010, coming into effect the 1st July 2010.

Last year on April, the EU Parliament approved a motion to revise the EU Ecolabel scheme to extend its scope so that new products such as processed food were included. Since the approval, a new Regulation, the No. 66/2010, has come into force. This regulation lays down rules for the establishment and application of the voluntary EU Ecolabel scheme, includes an amended design of the logo and has a provision that permits the development of criteria for the use of the EU Ecolabel in food and feed.

At present the Ecolabel covers 26 product groups, including cleaning products, electronic equipment, textiles and tourist accommodation. It is the intention of the EU Commission that this new regulation will be extended to a number of food products, thus widening the scope of the label to include food, feed and drink products.

This is not expected to happen immediately, but after the completion of a study that will be undertaken before the end of 2011. The Regulation states that the purpose of the study will be 'to ensure that criteria are feasible and that added value can be guaranteed'. The Regulation continues that the study will be only for organic food and feed products, including unprocessed agricultural products.

The new Regulation introduces significant changes to the former regulation regarding the level of coordination between EU institutions and Member States. For example, it allows the Commission to develop Ecolabel criteria itself, and to create an Ecolabel committee, composed of representatives of each Member State, to ensure that the criterion for the use of the label is respected.

Competent bodies within each Member State are expected to verify compliance with the EU labeling criteria and to prohibit its use when conditions are not

fulfilled. According to the Regulation: 'Each Member State shall designate the body or bodies, within government ministries or outside, responsible for carrying out the tasks provided for in this Regulation ('the competent body' or 'the competent bodies') and ensure that they are operational.'

Thus, a competent body can be any company or institution, private or public, that the Member State appoints, provided the conditions outlined in Annex V of the Regulation, which establishes the conditions that competent bodies must fulfil, are respected.

It could even be, as Annex V states 'A body belonging to a business association or professional federation representing undertakings involved in the design, manufacturing, provision, assembly, use or maintenance of products which it assesses, may, on condition that its independence and the absence of any conflict of interest are demonstrated, be designated as a competent body.'

The decision on the EU logo was finalised on 1 March 2010. The new logo can now be used as soon as the new regulation is published and enters into force.

The purpose of the EU Ecolabel was to avoid the proliferation of labels and to avoid consumer's confusion.

Products with the old EU logo can be sold until stocks are exhausted. Packaging material with the old logo and code numbers can be used until 1 July 2012 if the product complies with Regulation (EC) 834/2007 in all other aspects other than the labelling.

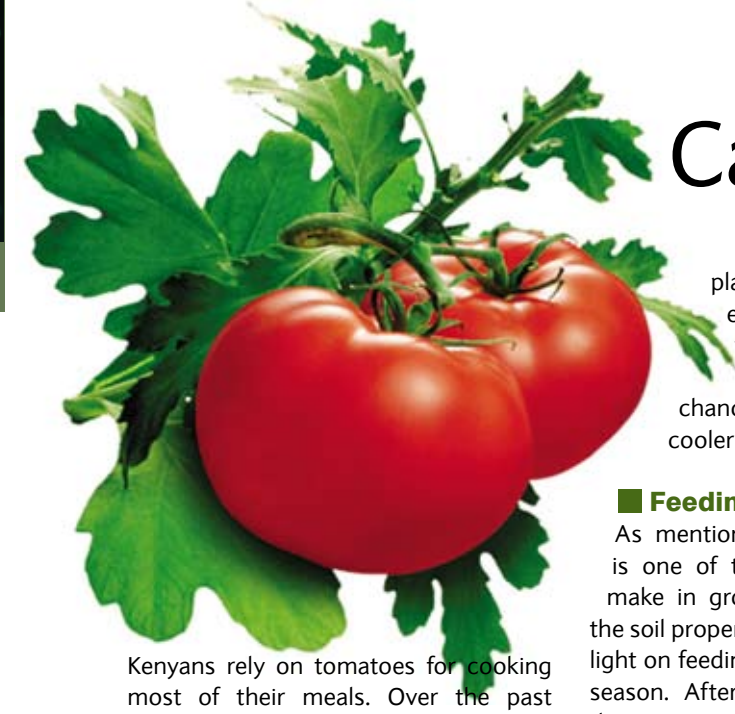
The logo can be printed in green and white or black and white.

In addition, if the packaging is dark the logo can be printed in a negative format, and when a coloured logo is printed on a coloured background an outer line to make a better contrast between the logo and the background is permitted. The logo can be combined with other logos or texts referring to organic farming provided the nature of the EU logo is not changed. The code number can be placed in the same visual field as the logo but does not have to be placed directly beneath the logo.

There will be a new system for the code numbers for certification bodies and governmental authorities. The new code numbers will have the format of AB-CDE-999. The first letters, i.e. the 'AB' represent the ISO code for the country where the product was finally certified.

The middle section of the code is an indication of organic farming, the text to be decided by the Commission or the EU Member State. So far the terms 'bio', 'öko', 'org' and 'eko' have been mentioned as acceptable but it is likely there will be more. The number in the end of the code indicates the certification body or governmental authority code that took the final certification decision for the product.

A certification body that is active in several countries will have more then one code, but it is not yet clear how the code system will work in detail. What is clearly stated is that the Commission shall make the code numbers available to the public by any appropriate means, including publication on the internet.



Care of Tomatoes

Kenyans rely on tomatoes for cooking most of their meals. Over the past months,the cost of tomatoes has risen by 40 per due to ongoing rainfall which increases the incidence of tomato diseases, leading to a sharp drop in supply of the commodity to the market.

Two key factors in insuring a better yield of top-quality, ripe tomatoes are variety and placement of the plants. Once one has chosen the variety and the plants are planted in the garden, there's not much one can do to change these conditions. Some of the things that can make a difference in tomato yield are:

Location:

If you are growing your tomatoes in greenhouse, make certain that the shelter is placed in such a way that it will get maximum sunlight. When placed facing southward is the best. Tomatoes do well when they get maximum sunlight.

Watering:

Run the hose at the base of the plants. Do not water tomatoes with an over-head sprinkler. Water thoroughly when you water, then hold off for several days, before rewatering. At the same time don't let the plants lack for water, as that is likely to stunt the plants, and the uneven water supply can can result in blossom end-rot. (This appears as a water soaked area on the blossom end of the fruit.) I find the biggest mistake that gardeners make is to over water and over feed tomatoes, which results in lush foliage growth, cool and moist soil, and just a few, slow ripening tomatoes. Over-head watering can also be a factor in creating blight on your tomatoes. If possible avoid watering your tomato plants in late afternoon or early evening. The best time to water is early morning, so the soil has a chance to warm-up before the cooler evening hours set-in.

Feeding Tomatoes:

As mentioned, I think over-feeding is one of the biggest mistakes we make in growing tomatoes. Prepare the soil properly when planting, then go light on feeding the rest of the growing season. After planting seldomly feed the tomatoes, unless the plants show

signs of yellowing leaves or stunted growth. Then if feeding is needed, use a low-nitrogen vegetable type manure and apply it at approximately one-half the recommended amount. If it is a dry granular type of fertilizer, be certain to water-it-in thoroughly.

Pollination:

The wind or a light breeze does a pretty good job of spreading tomato pollen. However, if the plants are flowering or not fruiting it is a good practice to lightly shake or tap the plants. There are also commercial blossom setting products that can be used to encourage fruit set. Be careful to use these products very sparingly. If too much spray is sprayed on the flowers, or if they are sprayed more then once, the fruit is apt to be deformed. It's a condition called 'Cat-facing', where the tomatoes end up partially formed and deformed on the blossom end.

Cultivation:

Be careful when you pull weeds or cultivate around tomato plants. Most plants are quite shallow rooted, and if you are not careful, you might disturb the surface feeder roots. At the same time, it is important to eliminate weeds and grasses, because they host many insects and diseases.

Staking:

Tying plants to a stake can restrict growth and fruit production. (This is based on research done in trials at WSU Puyallup, several years ago.) The use of tomato cages or fencing allows the plants to grow more freely thus producing abundantly.

Pruning:

To remove some foliage to allow for better air circulation is not a bad idea. However, the leaves shade the flowers and fruit, which are sensitive to hot sun. So in order for the fruit to ripen without sun scalding, abundant foliage should remain.

Late in the season, some varieties tend to get quite tall and out of hand, and it is obvious that the late flowers will not produce ripe fruit. So some of that growth can be removed, to divert the growth to ripen the fruit that is already on the tomato vine. Of course, any foliage that lies on the ground should be picked and discarded, as it would be subject to rot and prey to slugs and soil insects.

Diseases:

In recent years greenhouse tomatoes production has gained momentum. Specialists have found that the covering over the top of the plants keeps the rains off the foliage. This reduces the likelihood that the plants will be ruined by blights. It also provides warmth, which encourages earlier flowering and fruiting.

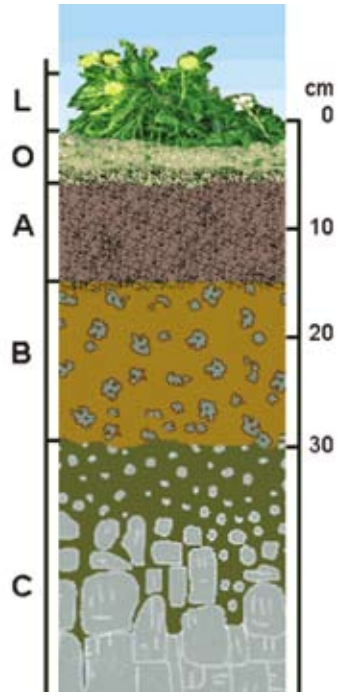
Give the tomato plants the care they need and you should be rewarded with a bountiful harvest of red ripe tomatoes.

Understanding Soil

A

By **Francis Mambala** – AgriQ Quest Ltd

Soil is generally taken for granted and is viewed as simple and ordinary and in the process gets thoroughly misunderstood. Apart from farmers, many people think of it as a bother while some professions consider it a nuisance to be done away with. The following definitions will clarify the point; to a civil engineer it is the earth material that can be disaggregated in water by gentle agitation. A highway engineer defines it as material (usually unsuitable) that should be removed to pave way for laying tarmac. In construction soil is defined as material that can be removed by conventional means without blasting. A cleaner sees it as dirt and constantly works to get rid of it. However, these definitions are not true to a farmer, an agronomist, a horticulturalist and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector. Soil is complex and hence the many definitions, even among stakeholders (sub-sectors in agriculture). For this reason, this section on soil science will attempt to simplify the concept of soil and how best to handle it in order to make it healthy, productive and sustainable for agriculture in general and horticulture in particular.



> An understanding of soil with respect to horticulture should aim at achieving and maintaining a healthy living soil required to support the growing human population into the future. The soil should be balanced in nutrients and high in humus, good physical conditions and have a wide variety of soil organisms.

Majority of farmers see soil as an indispensable resource that guarantees their livelihoods. Farmers definition of soil is based on its ability to anchor and support crop growth. Given that the agricultural sector accounts for a quarter of Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs over 70% of the workforce (both directly and indirectly), it shows how important soil is to economic development.

Soil is a complex mixture of minerals, air, water, organic material and living organisms built up over billions of years. The organisms continually process it thus modifying and enriching it. Apart from serving as a natural reservoir of water and nutrients, soil acts as a medium for filtration and breakdown of toxic wastes. Soils differ a great deal in diverse environments in which they are found. These differences are not only at the surface but also depth-wise (see picture below).

The complexity of soil leads to misconceptions that have gained a strong foothold. For example soil texture and soil structure are taken to be synonymous while clay textured soils are said to have less pore space than sandy textured soils. It is therefore important to study soil systematically (especially with respect to horticulture) hence the need for soil science.

B C *(Pictures courtesy of AgriQ Quest Ltd)*

The picture shows visual differences of soils at different locations;
A - Mwea,
B - Isinya in Kajiado
C – Limuru

Soil science is a systematic study of soil as a natural resource on the surface of the earth. It includes the sub-disciplines of pedology, soil biology, soil chemistry and soil physics. Pedology is the study of soil formation, classification and mapping, while soil biology is the study of soil organisms. An understanding of soil with respect to horticulture should aim at achieving and maintaining a healthy living soil required to support the growing human population into the future. The soil should be balanced in nutrients and high in humus, good physical conditions and have a wide variety of soil organisms. Such a soil should produce healthy plants while keeping weeds, diseases, and insects to a minimum.

Many soils on which Horticulture is practiced face serious limitations including poor fertility, acidity, salinity, sodicity, and poor drainage. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that African soils lose an annual average 100 Kg per year of mineral fertilizer yet receive only 10 Kg of the same. The institution further informs that African soils are generally poor hence maintaining or increasing soil fertility is a major requirement among growers to increase output. This can only be achieved if they know characteristics and constraints of their soils. In the series of write-ups to follow, the characteristics of soil will be explored, they include physical, chemical and biological properties followed by management strategies employed to attain optimal conditions for growing horticultural crops (and floriculture too).

10 years of A Plus PVC Technology

This year marks the 10th anniversary of A Plus PVC Technology Company Limited. This stands for 10 years of bettering the best that is the 'A' (A Plus) in terms of quality and service; delivery time, availability of goods to the customers and employees working conditions.

The vision of the company is to become the innovative market leader (East & Central Africa) in the manufacture and sale of high quality Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) based products.

Under the directorship of Mr. Y.M.Choi (Managing Director) and Mr. Lucas Mwaura (General Manager), the company has become synonymous leading local manufacture of PVC related products based on the latest Korean technology.

They manufacture high quality products in line with customers, legal, and regulatory requirements. This they do through the shared and enjoyed efforts of all the stakeholders, employees, suppliers and shareholders, satisfying their customers and being respectful of the environment. Their core values are integrity in all business activities; responsive to their stakeholders' needs and efficiency in service delivery.

In tandem with their Motto 'Quality is our business', A Plus PVC Company aims always to give the best of best; bringing the service to the people, eradicating poverty through giving discounted, reasonable prices for the young farmers to do water harvest and supplying raw material to many thus creating jobs directly.

Their products range from agricultural sector (agricultural & horticulture), automobile industry, juakali industry, tents industry among others. A Plus PVC Technology commands a big share of the market because they never compromise on quality. Their products are easier to handle, UV treated, temporized, environmental friendly with over 80% of what has been used being later collected and recycled.

The company values the middlemen and they never want to kill them by competing for the same tenders and producing PVC by-products. Rather than tendering for the same they give their clients best quotations to enable them pursue opportunities. This way they create more job opportunities for the companies' manufacturing final goods. They indirectly supply to the Ministry of Healthy by supplying mattress cover (mackintosh).

The Company has played a big role in Rwanda Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resource Development where they have participated in water harvesting raising food security especially in Kigali where you can now find ¼ an acre of land being pretty productive due to irrigation from ponds created with PVC sheets.

Mr. Lucas Mwaura

They have gone through thick and thin to reach where they are. The global economy affects them though directly especially the recent recession. The global petroleum price also affects them directly since PVC is a by-product. “The biggest challenge is the sub standard importation of PVC and the cost of production which goes up day by day especially electricity. The government has improved a lot on its policies but still it need to do more especially the so many operating licenses which are renewable every year. It should regulate on the price of electricity, turn the economy to 24hrs whereby instead of having one shift, we will triple the shifts while it should also hasten improving roads in the interior areas. All in all even with these challenges the last ten years we have been able to break even” said Mr. Mwaura.

When asked by our team what drives him? Lucas responded by pointing to a writing pinned on the wall that quotes: ‘obstacles are necessary for success because victory comes only after many struggles and countless defeats’. “Even when you feel low or down you don’t remain there but you pull up yourself and you find the strength to continue. I work as if this company is mine because this is where I find food to feed my children and family.” he added.

They have been giving back to the community by training on water harvesting, encouraging many to go for the technology since it is cheap and easy to understand. Their future expansions projects; driven by Strategic Plan and Vision 2030 is to start making PVC doors and window frames. A pilot project started on May in partnership with Kingswear.

Lucas had this to say on their tenth anniversary “We have come from far, thanks a lot to our clients, we listens to our customers and that is why we are where we are today. We don’t take them as just customers but we take them as our business partners and we pray and urge them to continue with the same spirit to reach to higher heights.” As Elisabeth Elliot said ‘It is always possible to be thankful for what is given rather than to complain about what is not given since one or the other becomes a habit of life’.

A-plus PVC Technology CO. Ltd.

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We are one of the major Suppliers to the Floriculture and Horticultural Industry with the following quality products-:

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Quality is our Business

Rwanda

pioneering in

Rain Water Harvesting

Rainwater harvesting is the starting point for economic and ecological regeneration. Harnessing of rain through water harvesting and conservation agriculture provides the basis for productive ventures that are so crucial in the enhancement of rural households owing to food self sufficiency and upgrade of rural economies.

In light of the above, a lot of efforts in Rwanda have been geared toward exposing farmers to low cost-effective technologies in upland irrigation (rain water harvesting) to improve agricultural development by availing crops all year round, improving farmers income, stakeholders' understanding of the constraints facing farmers, creating market linkages and employment creation. The efficient use of "green" water in agriculture is a key priority for Rwanda's Vision 2020.

The majority of the land users in Rwanda have been depending on rainfall for their livelihoods (i.e. green water). Rainfall deficiencies (primarily due to poor temporal distribution of rainfall and high evaporation losses), soil problems as well as plant problems, the latter originating from dry spell damages and nutrient deficiency have been major problems in the droughts prone dry lands of Rwanda.

The green revolution clearly shows that well regulated crop water access is crucial for stable long-term yield increase. Not only because yield growth is directly related to plant water uptake, but also because secured crop water supply reduces risks for crop failure, thereby increasing farmers´ incentives to invest in farm inputs, such as fertilizers, hybrid seeds and pest management.

Adding extra water is one way to compensate for soil water deficiency and to reduce the risk for plant damage during dry spells. The source of such water is water harvesting, defined as the collection of water for productive use and used as an umbrella term for a range of methods of collecting and conserving rainwater and runoff water.

There are two major forms: in situ rainwater harvesting, collecting the rainfall on the surface where it falls, and external water harvesting, collecting runoff originating from rainfall over a surface elsewhere. In order to enable supply of harvested surface runoff flow according to human needs over time, storage is inevitable, which is done in various types of surface and sub-surface storage systems.

Water harvesting is more than a matter of constructing ponds, dams, dugwells or tanks; it is a slow process of creating; of organising communities to develop, maintain and manage water harvesting activities; of involving communities closely in every aspect of water harvesting; and, finally, of setting up systems of using and sharing the water sustainably and equitably.

For the application of the harvested water there is a differentiation between supplemental or protective irrigation which is linked to a storage component and involves application of water to the crop a few times during the crop season, and runoff farming which involves direct diversion of overland surface water flow onto the field. The method of application differs according to the monetary investments linked to it.

Rwanda Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) started water harvesting in the southern and eastern provinces in 2007. According to Hacyizimana Patrice, the Director of RADA, there are over 170,000 hectares of mass land and gravity irrigation practiced on these hectares.

"As we harvest water, we target areas that are susceptible to drought. So far we have dug ponds or check dams in these areas from which we irrigate agricultural land. Some are located in south Bugesera, Ruhango and Nyanza." said Hacyizimana. "We intend to harvest rain water in the hill lands as well in order to facilitate agriculture in those places," he added.

Various organization such as ICRAF, World Vision and many others have been working in close relationship with RADA in providing technical support, conducting training, producing manuals for educating Rwandese on rainwater harvesting and also in enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders in the country to practice rainwater harvesting activities.

Ponds and underground tanks of different capacities have been excavated, lined with plastic materials and installed with Rope-&-washer, siphon or treadle pumps for water abstraction. This have increased water availability in Rwanda agriculture sector addressing key issues of loss of runoff and inadequate storage; inappropriate farming methods; inadequate skills and knowledge on RWH; environmental degradation and low soil fertility

Rwanda government has taken major interest in promoting RWH technologies, the major beneficiaries being the farmers, technicians and frontline extension agents. Major successes such as introduction and formation of Common Interest Groups (CIGs), where farmers are brought together and organized to address and implement the production of mangoes, pawpaw and vegetables have been realised.

Runoff water harvesting happens mainly in rural areas or in the less congested parts. People, who live in places that are a little bit congested like some parts of Kigali city, orient a plumbing design such that water is directed from the roof top to a water storage container by use of pipes.

Transfer of low-cost technologies in rain water harvesting from our brothers Eastern and Southern countries is crucial for national food security.

Hortec 2010 was Fabulous

Hortec 2010 was fabulous with many local and international companies showcasing their products. Syngenta East Africa limited had the most elegant stand while Deruiters East Africa, had the second well arranged stand


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Greenhouse Farming insights

The market

Until the appearance of this new concept of greenhouse farming, most of the crop growth was done in the open fields, thus leaving the grower and his crops exposed to the fluctuations of nature. The weather conditions directly influenced the length and success of crop growth seasons.
The introduction of indoor crop growth in controlled climate conditions neutralizes the impact of weather hazards and, theoretically, enables year-round growth. This new approach marked the world's introduction to the concept of intensive agriculture.
A significant concept change, greenhouse production has become a new, technology-based industry, involving new types of technical equipment capable of achieving predictable results and profits.
Kenya is currently experiencing a mushrooming of wooden greenhouses, some of which are not standard as per recommendations. Farmers need to be well informed before undertaking a greenhouse project.
The competitiveness in markets and the ever-increasing quality standards for growers have increased the importance of each small agricultural production unit being issued with the right information. It is within these that I did this editorial article to you plus a module for modern greenhouse production systems. The notable advantages for modern structures are the ability to control crop growth, growth schedules and yield, almost regardless of external factors, while protecting the high quality of produce year-round and ensuring the farmer a stable flow of income.

Training Module 1 Introduction

How to choose the right structure, the right location, the right planning
Think about future growth when planning a greenhouse operation. Plan for the long term. Not thinking about the future can be a costly mistake if your operation expands and you have to tear down existing greenhouses to add these features later.
Develop a master plan that takes into consideration at least the next five to 10 years. Many greenhouse businesses will survive much longer, so it's good to consider growth for the next 10 years.

Determine you Farming business needs

First determine what your business will need to be successful. If you have been in business for some time, this may be easier. If you operate a new greenhouse business, here is a list of questions you should be able to answer.

- What is the purpose of the business?
- What are you planning to grow?
- What size products are you going to produce?
- Who are your customers and how will you get product to them?
- How will you irrigate your crops?
- In what climate will you greenhouse be located?
- What type of soil conditions exist where the greenhouse will be built?
- What can you afford?
- Do you want to automate the greenhouse or operate it manually?

The purpose of the greenhouse

Will you be selling the produce wholesale or will you operate a retail business? The purpose of your business will determine things such as customer accessibility, seasonality and growing patterns. You may also want to have a more eye appealing building if it will be used as a retail garden centre. If you are building a structure for commercial production, you will want to tailor it to the specific structure that offers flexibility to produce crops depending on your customers' future needs.
What are you planning to grow and what light levels, temperatures and humidity levels are needed? If airflow is important, will natural ventilation do the job?

Crop, customer choices

What size product are you planning to produce in the greenhouse? There are many choices and special needs for certain sizes of produce, eg cucumber, pepper etc.

Irrigation concerns

How do you plan to irrigate your crops? You may think you can connect your facility to local water and Sanitation Company and then just turn on the tap. You could find you need more water than the local authorities are willing to supply. You need to plan for this situation and make sure you operation is near an ample water supply.
Over the last few years there has been an increasing amount of regulation related to water and its use. You should calculate your water needs at least over the next five years and become familiar with the local water authorities.

Some growers in the Eastern & Central province have used well water for 10-20 years. I hope the local authorities will not come in and put meters on the wells and started charging growers for water. Unfortunately, the well water may be at times too salty at places as Makindu. Increasingly, growers are required to install retention ponds to collect water runoff from irrigation and rainwater. With the increasing cost of municipal water supplies, it may be more economic to collect water runoff and to pump the water from a retention pond the master plan should include details on where a retention pond would be located and how much water it can hold.

Climate and codes

In what type of climate will your greenhouse be? The natural temperatures and light levels help determine what crops are economical to grow. Be sure to consider severe weather conditions including the frequency of high winds and rainfall amount. What are the soil conditions where you plan to build? Is there adequate drainage at your site or will you need to install a drainage system? The soil can be very porous, allowing for easy drainage. Some clay soils tend to hold water, which can result in muddier conditions for longer periods. Be sure the land is graded for proper surface drainage and the soil is sufficiently porous for adequate subsurface drainage. Land that has a 0-to 5-percent grade will support drainage and reduce land prep or excavation costs.

Buying the "right" structure

When it comes to greenhouse structures, cheaper is not always better and is not really cheaper in some cases. You might be able to get by with a cheaper structure for the short term, but if you are considering a long-term plan for the greenhouse and its value over many years, you might want to invest in a structure that is built to last.

There is more to the overall cost than just the price of the greenhouse itself. Some structures are more labor intensive to erect. When looking at structure costs, compare the total cost including construction costs. I recently encountered a greenhouse construction job where the grower constructed several wooden cheaper houses. They did not last for 3 years.

Module 2 continues in next publication on structure orientation, Temperature and humidity regulation.

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Your partner for better results

Modern technologies make economic handling of water and fertilizers possible. Additionally, new methods of plant protection reduce chemical use, and optimized climate control methods increases yields. Dutch technologies and knowledge in horticulture can provide essential technological support for the practical implementation of such technology.

Working with modern technologies requires new skills. “We spend a lot of time supporting farms that work with new technologies,” explains Francis Hoogerwerf from DLV Plant. “We visit such farms regularly to give advice and to discuss workers’ questions. Besides farm visits, we organize trainings where people learn how to incorporate technologies in their management practices.”

Growers in East Africa can benefit from the guidance of experienced Dutch advisors. They can provide indispensable advice with regard to both current crop-technology developments and management queries.

Technology requires regular maintenance. This prevents growers from experiencing unforeseen difficulties, and they can rest assured that their systems will always function properly. Dutch products are of high quality.” says Dirk Sassen of Bosman BV, installers. “We know that breakdowns are unacceptable for crops. We therefore offer local service for computer and irrigation systems. Expert installers are always available to visit a farm to solve any problems, 24 hours a day.”

Automation a vital tool

To achieve an optimum climate, vents must open at just the right moment and irrigation must be just in time. A modern process computer linked to a measuring unit makes climate control easier for the grower.

Growers introducing new crops must discover everything from scratch, as they can't just rely on their fellow growers' experience. In the start-up phase, a computer provides the required basic information, and later during the cropping period, automation can take much work off a grower's hands.

"You must take many factors into account when starting a new business. It's not just all sorts of regulations and licenses to be taken into account, but also the need to arrange finance, find suitable staff, etc. Growers then must familiarize themselves with the crop and come to grips with technology. With regard to the latter, we can assist businesses with their automation. After all, without measuring and registration, growers do not have the information they need. We supply computers and software enabling them to track temperature, humidity and light intensity. Based on these data, climate and irrigation can then be optimized, resulting in high-quality products." Says Martin Helmich

Dutch suppliers' partner with Fresias

Freesia Ethiopia is one of the farms growing a crop seldom found in East Africa. After preliminary research in a trial greenhouse, the initiators - the Ethiopian investors Samrawit and Thomas Moges - took the step of cooperating with a group of six Dutch freesia growers. They constructed a nursery of three hectares using the latest equipment. Samrawit Moges is happy with this cooperation, saying: "Two heads are better than one. We know the regulations and mentality in Ethiopia. The Dutch introduce their know-how about flower crops." Mathieu Barendse, manager with Freesia Ethiopia, is also content: "The Ethiopian highlands provide ideal growing conditions for freesias. The soil is also very suitable for freesias, so we had a good feeling right from the start."

The freesia farm is now run by three local managers. Barendse: "We have a good cooperation, and we have regular meetings with our investors and local managers. Business is running well."

The Dutch growers have undertaken thorough research before they built in the highlands. "After the first trials, we were convinced that we needed the best available equipment to make this project a real success. We have constructed modern tunnel greenhouses with good ventilation, and also bought a steam boiler to disinfect the soil." The investment not only involved greenhouses and soil disinfection facilities but also modern process automation. A weather station has been installed five meters above the greenhouse. Every section has got its own measuring unit to provide information about the temperature, the amount of light and humidity. Based on these measurements, the climate computer now regulates the position of the vents fully automatically.

We have a good cooperation, and we have regular meetings with our investors and local managers. Business is running well

Irrigation and fertilizer dosing are totally automated as well. "This saves an enormous amount of work and provides a balanced climate," says the freesia grower.

"We still have to learn. Registering climate data via the computer is vital. Another benefit is that, in nearby future, we can view these data remotely via a wireless internet connection. We can always consult with our managers about what is happening in the greenhouse, even if we aren't in the Ethiopia. Thanks to all the insights provided by the computer our African partners and we are learning together every day," says Barendse.

A modern horticultural setting requires expertise in order to take advantage of new technologies. Dutch suppliers will be your partner by providing durable technology to realize a sustainable and profitable business.

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Eating style

says much about a person's potential

There are many internal and external factors that govern when we eat, what we eat, how much we eat and when we stop, most of which have nothing to do with actual hunger or satiety.

Why do you eat? Because the food's there. Because it's time. Because someone else is eating.

When do you stop? When my plate is empty. When there is no more. When I feel like I can't possibly fit another bite into my stomach.

With lives that are packed full of activities and responsibilities, many of us have reassigned "eating" from a joyful ritual, a celebration that sustains our physical beings, to a task that just needs to be accomplished in the shortest amount of time, or with the most multi-tasking efficiency.

What would food taste like, what would you be inclined to eat (or not eat), and how would you feel if instead of deferring to the "hot, brown, plenty of it with no-time-to-eat-it" mentality to food, you gave the daily ritual of eating a little more space and awareness?

It takes about 20 minutes for your brain to catch up with what your belly already knows.

While an empty plate might be your external cue that it's time to stop eating, there's actually a much more complex set of mechanisms that governs your internal signal of "fullness."

Between the stretching of your stomach, the releasing of a cascade of hormones and the increasing of your blood sugar levels, the food you put in your mouth at 6:02 pm won't get recognised by your brain until sometime around 6:20 pm.

In other words, scarf down an entire plate of food in six minutes and not only will you barely have tasted what you put down your hatch, but also it'll take 14 more minutes for your brain to gather all the data it needs to tell you to stop.

And if you over-shot and ate way more than your body actually wanted or needed--well, thank goodness for the top button on your pants.

The Weight of One Raisin From the toweling-off sequence we use after a shower to the ritualised steps we take in getting ready for bed, a majority of our actions each day are habitual.

For most of us, the way we eat, how much we eat, and what we eat are also habitual.

Becoming aware of if you're hungry, what you're hungry for and when you're full is as simple as, if not as uncomfortable and awkward as, brushing your teeth using the opposite hand.

You're an accomplished entrepreneur--a leader of innovation and a person of action. Are you up for a challenge?

Try using two full minutes to eat a raisin.

Hold the raisin in your hand--look at it, feel it, smell it.

As you put it in your mouth, be aware of how you start to salivate, where the taste hits your tongue, how the raisin feels on your tongue.

Allow it to roll around in your mouth.

Be aware as the reflex to swallow gets triggered and make the choice if you want to swallow or not.

When you decide to swallow, feel the raisin slide down your throat and see if you can feel it land in your stomach.

As it does, see if you can sense what it feels like to be one raisin heavier.

Was it harder to do than you thought?

Kind of crazy what you can actually taste, isn't it?

And you thought you didn't even like raisins.

What other "exotic" flavours might be lurking out there to be savoured and enjoyed?

While slowing down to eat intentionally may not seem on the surface to be directly related to how effectively you're able to run your business, it's actually an ideal laboratory for the success-minded entrepreneur.

For most people, eating is something they do mindlessly, and both how and what they eat is almost purely habit.

That's also how most people choose to approach their work.

But entrepreneurs who find sustaining success are neither mindless nor habitual about their work.

The way people allow delayed gratification with food reveals other things, too.

In the 1960s, Stanford University psychology researcher Michael Mischel conducted The Marshmallow Study, which demonstrated how children's self-discipline and choices related to food directly corresponds to success later in life.

During the study, Mischel offered a group of four-year-olds a marshmallow, but said if they waited for him to run an errand, they could have two.

The errand ended up taking about 20 minutes.

One-third of the children opted to take the marshmallow right away while one-third ended up waiting for Mischel's return so they could have two marshmallows.

Fourteen years later, the children who waited turned out to be more positive, more successful in school and better able to pursue their goals by delaying gratification.

The children who did not wait for the extra marshmallow ended up scoring an average of 210 fewer points on SAT tests and were also more indecisive and less self-confident in life.

At first glance, this study might suggest that nature wins over nurture.

Mischel, however, discovered if children are taught cognitive tricks, they do better.

What this means for you is that it's possible to learn how to make better decisions.

You may not always use the right mental tools in the right situation.

For example, some people need to know all the options before they make decisions. These people are called maximizers.

They tend to need the best possible option and generally are less satisfied and happy in life.

Satisfiers tend to be more satisfied with something as long as it has the qualities they want--unlike the maximizer who wants to examine every possible choice.

Once you learn which you are, you can begin to train yourself to use your brain to your advantage and actually make better decisions.

Continue to hone your skills of mindfulness, intention and delayed gratification through all of your daily actions--from when you eat that single raisin to when you can reach for seconds.

Keffeler is the "Healthy & Wealthy" columnist at Entrepreneur.com and a consultant coach. She partners with entrepreneurs and business leaders to increase their impact and staying power by leveraging their health and the health of their employees as a business asset.

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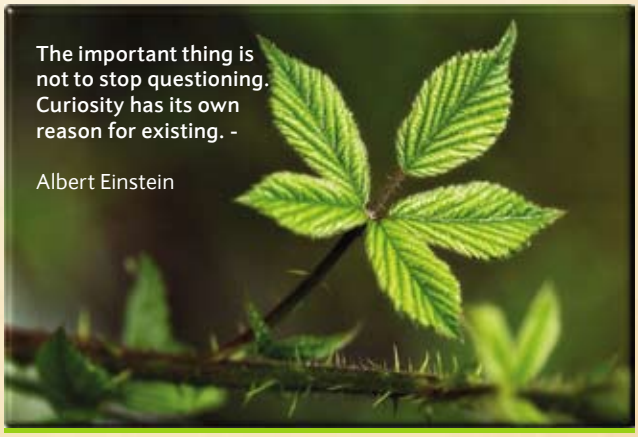

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The Top Five Time Wasters in Our Society Today

When you waste time, you are preventing yourself from achieving the things you really desire.

1. **Worry:**
   Endless worrying is unproductive and bad for your health. If there is something worrying you, craft a plan of positive action on paper, then let it go.

2. **Television:**
   Too many of us schedule our lives around our favourite television shows. If you really have to watch something, record it and watch it during free time.

3. **Telephone chatter:**
   Most of us like to call old friends and chat, but if you chat on the phone all day long, you will hardly get anything done. Keep phone calls to a minimum or set a timer to go off after 15 minutes.

4. **Traffic and Commuting:**
   If you use public transport, read, plan your day or complete paperwork. If you drive, listen to inspiring and informative CDs or tapes to sharpen your mind.

5. **Meetings:**
   If you are in charge of meetings, set time frames for them and stick to your stated time. Also keep needless agendas out of the meeting.

Having a Vision

If a blind man can find his way, why can't?

A man clad in a turban, robe and dark glasses sat next to me in a bus. My mind kept ringing that perhaps he had a bomb hidden in his clothes.

"I will definitely not survive if he decides to blow us up"' I thought. The bus stopped and the man took his walking stick and alighted.

Curiosity got the better of me and I followed him. As he walked, he seemed to be sure of where he was going and was even humming. We reached a bend but he did not miss a step.

If a blind man can find his way on a treacherous road, then why can't I envision my ambition?

Motivation and a vision of where one might want to reach helps him or her to reach an intended target.

"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong. -Abraham Lincoln