

Hortfresh Journal

For Leads in Horticulture

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March -April 2013



One on One with I.F.T.E.X,
Dick Raamsdonk

Threat to market access for
Kenya's beans & Snowpeas to EU

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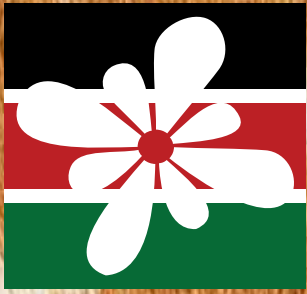
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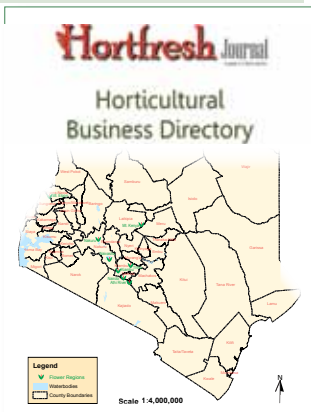


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Sending You a Flower of Peace



The election period brings back nasty memories that we badly need to forget. It is for this reason that I dedicate this column to exemplifying peace expressed in flowers of which Kenya is a lead producer.

Flowers have a peace message of their own which they express in one form or the other. Though experts disagree on the true meaning of many flowers, and most have different meanings to different people but peace is a sentiment that we can't fail to collect when we sight these delicate blooms.

According to me these two; love and peace are always conveyed in a flower. That is why I am sending a flower of peace to each one of us.

Nobody can bring peace but you yourself. Most of us claim to value it more but when the actual doing is needed, the enthusiasm decrease significantly. This is the moment to work and walk the talk.

The most powerful weapon one can be is being an instrument of peace. This means possessing an open heart, relating with others with understanding, rising above any political divide and embracing the spirit of togetherness, knowing that we belong to each other.

Given a chance to choose, always choose peace. What else can we value most? As the fragrance of flowers lifts our spirits, this flower is offered that it may inspire us and that peace will always prevail in Kenya.

Joseph Karanja

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In my Opinion...

Is the flower industry small-scale friendly?

I'll probably be the 100th person to tell you that the month of February is the flower Industry's equivalent of Christmas and the two share a distinct theme of red. It is this bloodied thirst for commercial success that makes any industry think in terms of sustainability whether such thinking starts inhouse or is as a result of outside pressure.

Sustainability can be looked at from two angles, sustainability of business as well as for the environment. I won't talk about environmental sustainability because the flower industry has championed great initiatives to preserve and clean up the environment by using less harmful chemicals and cleaning up their surroundings like in Lake Naivasha. What I will concentrate on is sustainability of business. Just to establish the parameters I will proceed within, I will not write this article as an informed journalist who has done his due diligence and has volumes of research upon which to base his article, but rather I want to approach it from a lay man's perspective. Think of that young prospective farmer in Busia who doesn't want to sing the old song 'there are no jobs', but instead wants to create one for himself and probably employ others in the process. I say this because not everyone has the kind of access to be able to do extensive research or even the resources to

do so. This will be a kind of 'interview in absentia' for the flower industry.

So the first question is, is the flower industry small-scale friendly? If our young farmer in Busia has access to one or two acres of family land, is he or she able to turn that into a flower farm and at what cost? What about our urban farmer or the typical stay-at-home mom with her backyard flower garden? Is she able to transform her recreational or aesthetically inspired flower garden into a commercial flower garden. What types of flowers would work for her? Are there exotic or rare flowers that she can cultivate in her five by five metre backyard garden that are so sought after that she could sell each bud for say five thousand shillings? I know that sounds utopian but really, are there such flowers? And if there are, what about the market, who would form her clientele? Drug manufacturers? Cosmetics firms? Landscapers? A Chinese University that brings its botanical students to study her tropical flowers,

or maybe nutritionists who have invented a magical 'flower diet'!

Really, -and this is where I want the flower industry players to come in- is it a small-scale friendly industry? This would largely determine the sustainability of such a venture on a smaller scale because so far all I see are large scale flower farms whether in Kitengela where I have 3 acres of land or in Naivasha. Now, I don't want to sound like I'm attacking the flower industry so don't come out swinging your shears, I just want to engage with you both as a journalist and as a small scale farmer. The reason

for this is that I'm working to inspire a million new young farmers to 'soil their hands' as the Ministry of Agriculture would put it. And though we can't all do the same thing, I believe we can get started and build as well as feed this nation. I have previously been involved in a campaign to create awareness on human trafficking and some of the reasons why young people are vulnerable to trafficking are poverty and unemployment. Agribusiness is a great solution to that. So email me and I will put down your answers in my next article.

By Bernard Muhia
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Valentine Day special Peace Promotion

Valentine's Day is vital in the flower industry worldwide, with market reports indicating that more flowers are sold on the day than during the rest of the year. In Kenya the sales in February and March account for 30 per cent of the annual flower exports.



Florists in Nairobi doubled their prices during Valentine Day as they maximised on increased demand. A bunch of roses that usually goes for Kes200 was selling at Kes 450 with some even costing as much as Kes1,500. "Since this celebrations come once in a year, this is the time we always double the prices of the flowers just to get that extra shilling. It is just eleven in the morning and I have already sold a number of cartons and still have some orders that I have to deliver in the course of the day". Said one of the vendors

The Flower Vendors Associations in collaboration with the


Kenya Flower Council joined forces to send a message of peace to Kenyans as the country prepares for March elections. The vendors are supporting a widespread peace campaigns to avoid a repeat of the violence


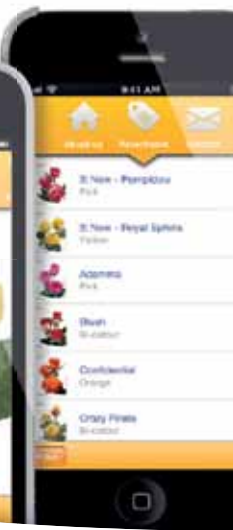
that erupted after the 2007 elections. They used the Valentine's Day not only to sell flowers but to take part in the campaign to bring Kenyans together and urge them to behave peacefully during the election period.

The KFC requested the City Council to allow the flower vendors to put up temporary tents in Nairobi's Central Business District for Ksh 1,500 per stand instead of Ksh. 9,000. In exchange, the vendors committed themselves to support peace campaign efforts where every bunch of flower sold had to be accompanied by a peace sticker. Ngige thanked the town Clerk Mr. Tom Odongo for heeding to their request adding that the initiative will help boost the culture of consumption of flowers locally.

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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)
Chlorylifos	Dusban
Acephate	Orthene
Dimethoate (over 25)	Dimekil, Degor, Folimat
Diafenthiuron	Duparc, Mecur, Pegasus
Indoxacarb	Avaunt
Methamidophos	Monitor
Methomyl	Methomex, Lannate, Acrinate

Impact

• Cost

Massive laboratory tests both locally and in the EU point of entry which will costs 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)
January 2013

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One on one with



Dick Raamsdonk

The second edition of IFTEX Expo Kenya is scheduled to take place from Wednesday June 5 to Friday June 7 at Visa Oshwal Center in Westlands, Nairobi.

Due to the great interests that growers, exporters and suppliers have shown towards the show, we at Hortfresh Journal sort to know more about the expo from its organizer, General Director HPP Exhibitions, Dick van Raamsdonk.

Please tell us more about I.F.T.E.X?

I.F.T.E.X gonna be here, coming in for the second time. It is a grower's exhibition, where we focus on growers exhibiting and visiting. So far the exhibition preparations are going on very well; a lot of growers are signing up again, as well as we have new growers, that are desiring this year to exhibit in the show. We are still expecting and hoping that we will be able to extend the exhibition; Oshwal Centre has

place downstairs in the basement, and we hope that we will grow this year, and with space needed in the parking lot, that will be transferred into exhibition hall. We will need some adaptation, it will take time to develop that, but we are confident we can do that.

So the second edition of IFTEX is on track, we have almost all growers from last year exhibiting again and a lot of new growers, so the show is growing; flower growers

from Kenya but also with suppliers. The success of the show last year, it look like is paying off and seen the growth of the new companies from Kenya as well as from outside.

On the visitor's side, we are expecting a lot of buyers coming to the show this year, from all over the world. The success of I.F.T.E.X last year has spread out, and buyers of flowers, worldwide know now that there is

an important exhibition in Kenya. So we are expecting also from the visitor's side; many more buyers coming to the show in June.

The show went into the next level, and it is rely becoming the show not to be missed, the show of Africa and we also hope that in time growers from other countries, around Kenya such as Uganda, Tanzanian will decide and exhibit in the show. In short IFTEX should become the flower trade show of Africa that is my aim and become a world prayer in the world of flowers trade shows.

This Expo is heading again for a 'sold out', how has been the space booking?

Space booking is going on very well; I mean of course we were expecting to go a bit more quicker, but elections of course play a big role, that delays decision making a bit; that is the bottom line and that is normal but after the election we expect that the show will be full, before the end of March, which we expected in the end of February will now become a month later.

What have you undertaken this year to make the expo a success?

Nothing much more than making it bigger and better; bigger means more exhibitors and better means more visitors, that is what I am doing, I am building a show for a sector in Kenya, that need to be built and right now the two important stones are bigger and better, more exhibitors, more visitors, that is what right now is important for the show and that is our aim for this year.

What should the exhibitors expect?

What we are building; the building stones; more visitors more buyers. They expect more buyers from all over the world, that will buy Kenyan grown flowers.



What are your expectations?

I am expecting the same of course; as I said bigger and better; I am expecting more exhibitors more visitors and I can see now already that, we will have more exhibitors, that already shows, and if you look at the visitors side, it is a bit early now to see how that will develop. I am confident but it is a bit too early to say we will have now let say more visitors that is at this moment just too early. The expectation is there, the realization of exhibitors is there already. We have more exhibitors; you know that is being realized as we speak, more visitors are an expectation because it is a bit early now.

Where do you see the event heading?

I see the event heading as one of the three most important flower growers exhibition in

the world. It gonna be in the top three; soon of the most important platform events where buyers and growers get together, and I think the other two are Ecuador and Holland, and the third one will be Kenya.

You are organizing about 5 more other exhibitions this year (New York, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Moscow and Holland), of the five which is the biggest or most interesting though I know they cater for different markets?

Holland of course is the one which is very important, but of course that exhibition has also a more diverse profile. There also plans there, there also different types of products, it is difficult to compare but if you look at the most pure flower trade show, it is the one of Kenya, without any doubt. As a flower growers trade exhibition it is the show in Kenya, that is number one.

Well I must say that I like the way you organize, the way you keep exhibitors informed, you are hands on. Where do you draw your strength, to run up and down?

Commitment, belief, mission, my character that is the way I am, when I belief in something I rely go for it. I think those are the key words, mission, commitment, the will, the way I am to get things done, and that is the only way to get things done, to get on top of it. When I saw the opportunity in Kenya a few years ago, having full grown industry lacking a national exhibition, with the importance the Kenya plays in the world of cut flowers, I said; wait a minute this is a heaven for me, I can put all the elements together and get this thing going. I know of course before flowers went to the auction, that was it, growers were lazy, so to speak, there was no

marketing effort, there was no marketing need, there was no direct sales need, that has changed, flower growers are going direct this days and that of course a need to come out and that is where I come in. That is where I said fine, let get those buyers and growers together, not where flowers are sold though, but where the flowers are produced in Kenya. And when I saw that happening, I said it is now or never. I needed a good place, and locally found the Oshwal Centre, the only place in the country that can hold this type of show, this size and also has the possibility to grow.

General comment, may be to the flower growers

Kenya is a light in the flower industry, a light in the whole industry, the only country where I will say there is, this moment growth; not only this moment, a change of few years. Kenya is a light of the flower industry because things are happening here, things that are not happening in other parts of the world. Somehow Kenya is the only country in the world where floriculture has positive development. There are problems all over the world in floriculture, and somehow growth is similar to Kenya. Growth is happening in Kenya that is positive development; my question is why are things going so well in Kenya, compared to the rest of the world

in floriculture? I can mention all of the important competitions, the other parts of the world flower are being produced, and there is only one light and that is Kenya. You ask me why, I don't know, I don't have the answer, but I am glad I can be part of the light; to do my part of job. What we do is what our profession is, and that is bringing buyers and growers together; organizing which is a profession, I know it is an undervalued profession, but it is a profession and of course you need to have the knowledge of the industry. Because I am running up and down, one of the advantages of running up and down is that you meet a lot of people; I mean today I am in Kenya last week I was in Ecuador next week I am in New York and you talk to the industry, you know what is going on. That how I know that Kenya had a good Valentine but if you go to Ecuador they had a terrible Valentine.

Is the show going to be held annually or biannually?

The point is once it is a supplier's show, biannual is more than enough, you don't ever think of doing annual. Once it is grower's show, it has to be annual, because growers want to sell every year, they want to sell every moment, so the world of selling and buying flowers is changing, so many times within a year that waiting two years in a row you would lose the momentum, you would lose the business. If you are in the supply industry, develop don't go so quick, so every two years is enough. But once it is grower's show, you can't wait two years that is like a life time, and that is why the show is annual because it is grower's show. Ok supplies are exhibiting but the growers need to have business each and every single moment. You wait two years you miss the momentum you miss the business. So

a grower's show has to be annual and suppliers show can be biannual, which doesn't mean we don't know what gonna happen in the future but another reason why this show is now yearly is we have to put it on the map.

What about Ethiopia Hortflora?

Ethiopia is a supplier's show. Most of the growers in Ethiopia, they sell to the auction so they don't have that need to sell direct so much. So it is another type.

Last thing, the strength of HPP, is that we are so long and so deep in the floriculture world. We have enormous database we have a lot of contacts so we are able to bring buyers to Kenya, that is one of our strength and if you have that strength you can put up a show like this in one year.





Pest Control Product Board, managing director, Ms Gladys Maina, cuts ribbon to re-launch re-branded Greenlife Crop Protection Africa Ltd in Naivasha. With her is the company's horticultural manager, George Kariuki(left), and Agrochemicals Association of Kenya CEO Richard Sikuku

Farmers warned against use of unregistered chemicals

Pest Control Product Board managing director, Ms Gladys Maina has urged farmers to use registered chemicals only, to avoid incurring losses. She said this speaking in Naivasha during the national launch of Greenlife Crop Protection Africa Ltd (GCPAL); a meeting which was a culmination of a month-long farmers' training by the company.

The director advised farmers to use products responsibly and read labels to ensure the safety of the environment. "There has been serious irresponsible use of pesticides, with many organisations especially in Naivasha using products like organo silicones that have not been registered. If dosage is an issue for fully evaluated products, then what about using unregistered products? Do you want to

use them in secret and be found at the market? It is too expensive. Only registered products should be used and according to the prescribed rates. If you think you have anything that works better, come to us for assessment" warned Ms Maina, who is also the secretary to the board.

Going by what is happening at international market; the horticultural farmers stand to lose heavily if they continue using chemical products that have not been registered. EU is in the forefront getting rid of some of these products.

"We are looking at safer molecules. Whether we like it or not, the world is moving from hard chemicals to soft ones, and even integrated pest management, to reduce the loads of

chemicals we put in the environment and bring safer management" Said Maina.

Mr Richard Sikuku, managing director of the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya, who was also present in the meeting backed PCPB call and added that, AAK was coming up with a programme to reduce obsolete pesticides in the country and they have asked their members to research on them.

Farmers in Kitengela, Thika, Nakuru, Eldoret, Laikipia and Naivasha have benefited from the meetings that GCPAL has been conducting. Though incorporated in 2010 as Greenlife AgroScience East Africa Limited, the company, whose core business is marketing of agro-chemicals, non-

pesticides, fertilisers, seeds and small holder greenhouses and irrigation equipment, used the four-week farmer training campaigns as a platform to re-launch and rebrand its logo and name.

GCPAL has been undertaking research on challenges faced by farmers and hopes to support them to boost their production. According to the company's horticulture manager Mr. George Kariuki, most farmers are not able to recognise pest threats and are failing to apply the right chemicals resulting in heavy losses. Kenya is having some of its vegetable produce for export rejected by the international market due to the nature of products used in disease control, leading to millions of shillings in revenue loss," he said.

1



Trumpet

200 SC

TRUMPET 200SC is a fat-soluble insecticide used to control Lepidoptera pests in ornamentals, fruits and vegetables. It has a novel mode of action in that it mimics the action of the insect moulting hormone, ecdysone; a natural hormone that exists in the larvae of lepidopteran insects that stops natural development. Lepidoptera larvae cease to feed within hours of exposure and then undergo a lethal, unsuccessful moult.

- Low risk to beneficial and predatory insects that feed on Lepidopteran larvae as well as other non target organisms
- Mode of action and specificity make TRUMPET 200SC well-suited for IPM programs

Specific Mode of Action

- Mimics ecdysone, the insect-molting hormone
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- one to three days after ingesting TRUMPET 200SC
- Does not affect beneficial and predatory insects, which are key elements in an integrated pest management (IPM) program

Advantages

- Superior efficacy
- Longer residual activity
- Fewer timing issues; applied to all instar larvae at any foliage stage
- Larvae stop feeding within hours of ingesting TRUMPET 200SC
- Mode of action of TRUMPET 200SC is specific to Lepidopteran larvae

Tips for Using TRUMPET 200SC Insecticide

- Because TRUMPET 200SC must be ingested by the larvae, thorough and uniform coverage is essential.
- To ensure optimal performance, applications of TRUMPET 200SC should be timed to allow six hours of drying time before the onset of precipitation.
- Use agricultural oils as Integra® in the spray mix of TRUMPET 200SC to improve initial spray deposits, redistribution and weatherability.
- Trumpet should not be applied through fertigation system.

APPLICATION RATES

Crop	Pest	Rate / hectare
Roses	Thrips, Caterpillars, aphids, White flies,	100ml/100l water, 1L/ha
French beans	Caterpillars	1.0L / ha 20ml/20L water
Tomato	Helicoverpa armigera	
Cabbage	diamondback moth	

PRE HARVEST INTERVAL: Tomato 7 days: French beans 7 days: Cabbage 7 days

COMPATIBILITY: TRUMPET 200 SC is compatible with major commonly used pesticides, we always advise a physical compatibility test before spraying a large area.



Most farms are located near the markets and they can therefore easily supply the markets with fresh mushrooms. Mushrooms are currently produced only near major towns because people in the rural areas cannot afford them. People in the rural areas collect their mushrooms from the wild. First quality fresh mushrooms are supplied to hotels and supermarkets with second grade mushrooms being sold to lower markets at a cheaper price.



Mushroom Farming- Potential opportunities in Kenya

Historical Perspective

Growing up on the slopes of Cherangani hills in the Rift Valley, mushrooms were a common sight especially during the rains. Nature's benevolent way was to provide them beautifully scattered in bushes and we uprooted them in our hunting or firewood gathering expeditions. We famously referred to them as 'obuoba' in luhya dialect. As for whether they were edible varieties or not, we had scanty knowledge but had only been told that the bigger ones were edible and the tiny crowded ones which often grew on logs of wet wood were poisonous.

Edible mushrooms are consumed by humans as comestibles for their nutritional value and they are occasionally consumed for their supposed medicinal value. Mushrooms consumed by those practicing folk

medicine are known as medicinal mushrooms. An example of the mushroom variety that was consumed for medicinal value is the Gernoderma Mushroom. For over 4000 years Ganoderma Lucidum has been recognized by Chinese medical professionals as the highest ranked of all herbs found in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia. The Chinese name for Ganoderma is Lingzhi, means "spiritual potency". The Japanese name for Ganoderma is Reishi and is regarded as the King of Herbs. Dr. Shi-Jean Lee, the most famous Chinese medical doctor of the Ming Dynasty, strongly endorsed the effectiveness of Ganoderma in his famous book, Ban Chao Gang Moo ("Great Pharmacopoeia"). He stated that the "long-term taking of Ganoderma (Reishi) (Lingzhi) will build a strong, healthy body and assure a long life."

The Kenyan Scenario

Mushroom production is currently valued at KSh 340 million. Large scale producers account for over 95% all over Kenya most of which is button. Shitake, though not common in Kenya, is globally rated second after button. Oyster mushroom production is readily picking up because it is easy to grow, has higher yields and has more nutritional value than button. Due to its lower cost of production and high yielding capacity it presents a good opportunity for small to middle scale farmers.

There are several commercial mushroom farms here in Kenya. They include Agridutt Ltd., Rift Valley mushrooms, Olive mushrooms, Devani and Kanchan mushrooms. There are also other small farms producing mushrooms but only the four major farms have their produce sold in the

supermarkets. Small farms usually sell their produce in the hotels and restaurants. (MushWorld, 2004)

Kenya produces 500 tons per annum (of which 476 tons being button) against an annual demand of 1200 tons both in hotels and home consumption. Key exporting companies do not have out growers. This means that if the right institutional framework is put in place to provide awareness and support for those willing to engage in mushroom production, the capacity would go higher with time in trying to meet the huge demand which would translate to profits for farmers. The price of mushrooms is very high compared to that of other vegetables. Due to the low supply the price has remained unnecessarily high. In the supermarkets, Agaricus is sold in 250g packs at a

price of KES*150 (USD2). The price for the oyster mushrooms is comparable to that of Agaricus but shiitake costs as much as KES1,000 (USD13) for one kg of fresh mushrooms. (MushWorld 2004)

Useful information for beginners

It is possible to grow mushrooms in Kenya but the growers will need to find solutions to the problems facing mushroom growers in this country. These problems are more or less similar to those in other third world countries and the approach could be compared to mushroom projects in these countries.. Mushrooms Worldwide Chapter 10. Regional Research 202

Kenya generally has a tropical climate and most of the areas are hot, and these areas are suitable for Pleurotus. There are cold regions favorable for Agaricus bisporus and other mushrooms growing in cold areas. The lowlands are usually hot (21-34 OC) and are generally poor in agricultural production. Though some of the lowlands receive adequate rainfall, the soils are poor and these results in small quantities of agricultural residues being available for use as substrates.

Areas of moderate altitude that receive moderate rainfall (800-1,500 mm per annum) are where most of the agricultural activities take place. Temperatures in these areas range between 18 and 27OC. This climate allows for the cultivation of a variety of crops such as wheat, rice, maize and cotton. And the agricultural residues

suitable for use as mushroom growing substrates in these areas are plentiful.

The highlands are generally cold, with temperatures ranging between 14 and 23OC. The highlands produce less agricultural residues but mushroom farmers can get their substrates from nearby moderate areas. The risk of contamination of substrates in the hotter areas is higher than the cool areas and the polythene bag technique is the most appropriate for oyster mushroom and shiitake cultivation here. In oyster mushroom bag cultivation, it is advised that the volume of the bags should not exceed 15L in order to avoid overheating.

In the hot areas the mushroom houses should be highly insulated to keep the heat out. Mushroom houses made with locally available materials used as insulation and covered with polythene are suitable for farmers with only capital investments. In order to fight temperature fluctuations, the commercial farmers should build mushroom houses using concrete and use air conditioners to regulate the environment inside. In cold areas the temperature at night falls to as low as 4OC which would inhibit the growth of mushrooms.

Substrates for growing mushrooms are plentiful in areas where wheat and rice are grown in large scale. Other substrates like sawdust, sugarcane bagasse, corncobs, coffee pulp, cotton wastes and other straws are also available. The country is a big producer of agricultural produce so



Ganoderma The Wonder Mushroom (Herb) that Withstood the Test of Time in China for 4000 years. Now re-discovered by the Western World

the availability of any of the substrates is not a problem. Most farms are located near the markets and they can therefore easily supply the markets with fresh mushrooms. Mushrooms are currently produced only near major towns because people in the rural areas cannot afford them. People in the rural areas collect their mushrooms from the wild. First quality fresh mushrooms are supplied to hotels and supermarkets with second grade mushrooms being sold to lower markets at a cheaper price.

Way forward

There should be a local producer of high quality mushroom spawn that could be sold directly to local farmers.

The Ministry of Agriculture and other supporting institutions should give more emphasis to encouragement of mushroom cultivation. Donors who usually shun

projects involving new technology and huge amounts of money should give support to women's groups or small farmers to initiate small local projects for mushroom cultivation as a family food source.

Exchange of information between farmers and researchers should be encouraged. The current mushroom farmers don't trust their competitors, and unfortunately neither do some researchers.

Promotions for the consumption of mushrooms should be undertaken. The Kenyan people should be taught the nutritional and medicinal attributes of mushrooms in order to encourage them to eat more mushrooms. There are still many people who have never eaten the mushroom.

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PROFILE



Greenlife Crop Protection Africa Limited (GCPAL) is a leading corporate focused on provision of quality, reliable and affordable wide range of farming inputs. The company was founded in the year 2012 and begun operations in the year 2013. With headquarters in Nairobi Kenya, coupled with a well established supply network across Eastern Africa, GCPAL is strategically positioned to deliver farming solutions to all farmers across the region and beyond.

Greenlife Crop Protection Africa specializes in provision of: insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, fertilizers, crop nutrition products, seeds, veterinary products, smallholder greenhouse kits, Agro-tools and equipments, and proficient field extension services. Our product novelty is unrivalled; we revolve not only on providing quality products, but also on solving the two major global contemporary challenges of environmental degradation and economic meltdown. We achieve this through provision of affordable products which are environmentally friendly as approved by bodies such as World Health Organization, Food and Agricultural Organization, and locally registered by Pests Control Products' Board among others.

The extensive and intensive range of products and services has bestowed GCPAL a remarkable reputation among households within the region.

We are set to maintain the high standards of our products and service delivery to our customers, through our relentless research and development of existing and new products, and customer focused marketing.

With the ever increasing global population growth accompanied by increased industrialization, there has been subsequent increase in demand for food and raw materials. Our role will be to engage in product development in a bid to provide valuable agro-inputs, which will help farmers optimize their outputs in the face of limited resources.

Vision

To be the ultimate agro-chemical company of choice for quality and affordable farm inputs that will surpass our customers' expectations.

Slogan **Your growth, our concern**

Mission Statement

We envision to developing quality products of affordable cost and endeavor to conveniently deliver the products to our customers at absolute promptness. Our top priority is to meet all our customers' agricultural requirements from our own product array while ensuring at least 95% customer satisfaction.

Employees

Our employees are our biggest asset. Consequently, we not only recruit and maintain highly qualified staff members but also continually train them on emerging issues in their respective areas of responsibility. In addition we promote the spirit of team work and general moral and social well being among all our employees.

Core Values

At Greenlife, we refer to our stakeholders as associates; we hold our employees, customers, suppliers and other stakeholders with high esteem. We believe our success is derived from the success of our stakeholders. As Greenlife community, we believe in delivering what is promised, integrity and honesty tops our list of values. Customer satisfaction and unequalled service is embedded in our system, and when you come to us, you have no doubt that quality and timeliness is guaranteed.

- **Integrity**
Always being responsible and doing the right thing
- **Passion**
Being self motivated and inspired to outperform our set targets.
- **Team Work**
One company, one diverse team.
- **Professionalism**
Always seeking to make a difference
- **Innovation**
Constantly determined to discover new and improved ways to add value to our products and service delivery.
- **Non-discrimination**
Equality for all
- **Success**
Our ultimate goal

Commitment

To be attentive to the needs of our customers, to manage all our activities in a responsible way, to treat our business partners fairly, and to developing a work environment built on trust, diversity and sound values. This sense of responsibility extends to helping to protect the environment and supporting the communities within whom we operate.

Purpose

We endeavor to alleviate hunger in Africa by providing sustainable farming solutions to the small and big farmer in every corner of Africa. The world is facing cruel climatic changes, increasing population (which is becoming difficult to feed), diminishing renewal resources, scarce arable land and unbalanced ecosystems. Greenlife is selflessly engaging in making the world a habitable place through continuous innovation and provision of sustainable agricultural practices.

Integra®

INTEGRA®

INTEGRA® is a duly registered organosilicone based wetter / spreader and foliar uptake enhancer for crops as Vegetables, Fruits and Ornamentals. It's developed by combining the better of the two most important words to growers: quality and price. This high value organosilicon product is the best that grower's money can buy. It increases pesticide efficiency stability, distribution and penetration of chemicals and fertilizers and reduce run-off plant treated areas.

Uniquely balanced nutrients:

INTEGRA® provides in one formulation the following properties that every grower desires: Wetting, Spreading and increased foliar uptake.

Physico – chemical properties:

Appearance: Transparent liquid or light amber liquid

Surface tension: (0.1%Wt): 20.0 - 22.5mN/m

Specific Gravity (25°C): 1.010 - 1.015g/cm³

Viscosity (25°C): 20 - 40mPa.S

Cloud point (0.1%Wt aqueous solution) : <10°C

How it works

INTEGRA® is a crop supplement which contains Silicone for use with Pesticides. The lipoprotein matrix of the insect cuticle and Powdery mildew are disrupted when the lipophilic carbons of INTEGRA® moiety and pesticides penetrate it. This results in evacuation of cellular contents, causing the cells to dehydrate and die. INTEGRA in combination with pesticides also disrupts the cuticle of soft-bodied insects (e.g. aphids, whiteflies, and thrips) which makes them vulnerable to dehydration.

INTEGRA® helps to nourish and bio activate the plant, increasing cell wall stability and speeding up root cell replication. These helps to build stronger and more extensive rooting systems, increasing nutrient absorption and helps plant to resist stress and drought.

INTEGRA® acts as a balancing and buffering substance that also helps your plants to deal with potentially toxic levels of minerals, salts and pollutants.

Rates of application

Recommended Crops	Amount of Integra®	Application interval
Roses, Carnations, Hypericum, other Ornamentals, Vegetables, Wheat, Barley, Mangoes, Passion fruit and other crops	100 - 200ml / Ha (1-2ml/20lt water) (0.1-0.2ml per litre of water)	10-14 days

Benefits

It quickly and thoroughly enhances other products wetting and spreading, penetrability, dispersability, absorption and translocation on the plant. The spreading area and speed of the foliar uptake of other molecules on the leaf surface is thus increased greatly. On waxy surface, INTEGRA can infiltrate and penetrate the plant's stomata's, thus moisten them quickly.



SGS PROVIDES FIELD AND ANALYTICAL SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION CYCLE FROM R&D TO HARVESTING



FIELD PREPARATION AND FERTILITY MANAGEMENT

Production agriculture needs continuous innovation to improve the management and sustainability of our natural resources. With demands for efficiency and increasing environmental concerns, expertise in research activities, product development, fertility management and other analytical techniques or farm management practices are crucial for success.

To provide solutions for this highly specialised sector, SGS has developed a unique package of added value services. Life Science Companies, Plant Breeders, Seed Producers, Agro Chemical Companies, Distributors, Fertilizer Suppliers and ultimately Farmers can now benefit from Seed and Crop Services.

Optimize and improve your crop development, increase growth and ensure sustainability with effective nutrient requirements and fertiliser application.

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- SOIL/LEAF NUTRIENT TESTING
- FERTILITY MANAGEMENT
- SOIL CLASSIFICATION
- IRRIGATION WATER TESTING
- FERTILISER FIELD TRIALS
- PRECISION FARMING SUPPORT
- CONSULTING

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SEEDS

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HARVEST

Sampling, laboratory testing and research to develop new seed products, research seed health and ensure quality of commercial seeds.

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- SEED TESTING (INCL.GENETICS)
- IP TRACEABILITY / FIELD AUDITS
- SEED / VARIETY FIELD TRIALS
- LABORATORY RESEARCH
- ISTA CERTIFICATION
- TRAINING
- SEED SERVICES

Develop and register your agricultural inputs to ensure efficacy, safety and regulatory compliance.

- FIELD TRIALS (R&D, REGISTRATION, DEMONSTRATION)
- RESIDUE STUDIES
- ENVIROMENTAL FATE
- ECOTOXICOLOGY
- PRODUCT CHEMISTRY
- REGULATORY AFFAIRS / REGISTRATION
- FIELD INSPECTIONS / CROP SCOUTING
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- BRAND PROTECTION AND SUPPLY CHAIN INTEGRITY SOLUTIONS FOR AGROCHEMICALS AND SEEDS
- PROJECT FINANCE/INVESTMENT IN FARMLAND PROJECTS (TECHNICAL DUE DILIGENCE, IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING, ETC)

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ELGON KENYA LIMITED

in Bid to Boost Farmers Output

Agriculture is touted as the mainstay of Kenya's economy, and truly it is. The sector directly contributes 24% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and generates 50% of export revenue. Among the sector's biggest earners is horticulture which currently contributes about Kshs 250 billion to the economy (in terms of export and local consumption) while employing about 5 million people.



Indeed, in recognition of its vital role, the Kenyan government has invested heavily – in policy terms, cash and human resources as well as in making rural access roads and other infrastructure better. In vision 2030 the government has also identified and targeted agriculture as one of the six pillars of the economy whose development will help to create what is termed "a globally competitive and prosperous nation".

One of the leading agricultural inputs firm Elgon Kenya Ltd, which is based in line with Kenya's desire to raise the profile of agricultural sector, is playing a major role in helping the country realize the lofty and noble goals of vision 2030.

In more ways than one, the company is running various programmes that target the youths and small-scale farmers, in a bid to increase yields; repositioning agriculture as a lucrative occupation.

Mr. Nelson Maina, PR & Communications Manager Elgon Ltd briefed Hortfresh Journal, the many ways the firm has invested in, one being stockist training. "In certain areas, we reach the farmers directly through our in-house trainers but effectively we train stockist on how and when to use agro chemicals. We train agro-dealers because they interact frequently with the farmer. We equip them with information so that they

can pass the knowledge to the farmers" Nelson noted.

Elgon Kenya has recognized that supplying farmers with superior seed would play a crucial role in enhancing agricultural production. That is why they are training dealers on certified hybrid seeds to stock and farming

conditions conducive for the seeds for better yields, right crop protection products, and how they are likely to benefit those buying. They educate them on how to treat, store and package their seeds and other farm inputs to reduce degrade through exposure to moisture.



"We realized that agricultural extension officers are few and not available to farmers; so we came in to give the lacking information that causes substantial production reduction in several areas. This has helped the farmers know how to handle chemicals, books and when to spray crops. Since we started the programme two years ago, there are positive results in production" said Maina.

The company has also rolled out a nationwide training programme on how to use different types of fertilizers so that farmers can raise farm productivity. "The programme started off in Mt. Kenya and Rift Valley regions and will soon be extended to all corners of the republic of Kenya. We believe that although it is important to meet Kenya's total fertilizer needs of 271,000 metric tons, it is probably more important to train farmers on how to use different types of fertilizers". Maina said.

About 15-17% of Kenya's total land area has sufficient fertility and rainfall to support farming and only between 7% and 8% of the land can be classified as first class agricultural land. Although the rest is not really suitable for farming Elgon is expanding

cultivation into this marginal lands through provision of water and raising the fertility of the land.

"The ever rising cost of farm inputs and machinery has forced low income earners to buy products in small quantities, in what is now popularly known as the 'kadogo economy'; that is why we have introduced a 'kadogo' drip kit. The kit is designed for installation on small plots and community projects and is acting as a propeller towards better yield achievement using existing resources". The Elgon manager said.

As a testimony of their commitment to offer services that are farmers driven; contributing to increased productivity, food security, improved incomes and better nutrition; the company has bagged various accolades including Environment Respect Award.

Another area that the firm has gone a notch higher is the introduction of an annual award to fete successful farmers. "Elgon Kenya will sponsor the first Farmers Awards, and every year, a farmer who has done it best will be crowned, to celebrate our soil heroes". Elgon Kenya Director, Mr. Bimal Kantaria said





Traditional Vegetables in Fashion Again!

African indigenous vegetables (AIVs) such as African nightshade, Crotalaria, Spider plant, African eggplant and Amaranth, can make an important contribution to nutrition, food security, income and overall livelihoods of rural smallholder farmers in East and Central Africa. Their high vitamins, iron, protein, minerals and fibre content can eliminate deficiencies amongst children, pregnant women and poor people living in both rural and urban areas. By enhancing the body's ability to fight diseases, consumption of indigenous vegetables improves the quality of life of people living with HIV and AIDS. Production of indigenous vegetables also plays a significant role in gender empowerment

and development. The consumption of African Indigenous Vegetables (AIVs) in eastern Africa has greatly increased over the last decade. However, traditional leafy vegetable farmers from East and Central Africa have long had a problem getting quality seeds to produce their crop. Majority of farmers use seed obtained from their own previous crop or local open air markets, but the seeds have problems of purity and low germination. This is now changing as more farmers are venturing into seed production with support from CABI in Africa. The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) in collaboration with CABI and other partners in the Kenya and Tanzania initiated the project

"Scaling up farmer-led seed enterprises for sustained productivity and livelihoods in Eastern and Central Africa". Through this initiative, farmer-led African indigenous seed enterprise models are being developed and analyzed. This not only benefits the farmers producing the seed, but is making quality seed available for growers. Farmers from the Nyanza and Western Provinces in Kenya have formed groups to produce seed of various traditional vegetables to meet local demand, while ensuring compliance with seed regulations.

CABI Africa is running demonstration fields on best practice in seed production in collaboration with a community-based organization called

Technology Adaptation through Research Organisation (TATRO), Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) and the Kenya Seed Company.

The team is evaluating different models for the seed enterprises, as well as training the farmers on technical aspects of seed production processing, seed regulation and marketing. Similar work is going on in Tanzania in collaboration with Horticultural Research Institute-Tengeru (HORTI-Tengeru), INADES Formation Tanzania, Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) and the World Vegetable Centre (AVRDC). Building Capacity for better seeds

A course to teach future trainers the principles of quality seed production and postharvest handling has been developed and is being used to train farmers, government and private sector extension workers beyond the project site. The training covers the technical aspects of seed production including participatory approaches, enterprise selection, identification of seed production sites, nursery management, good agricultural practices for crop, pests and disease management, isolation distance, roguing of off-types, harvesting and post-harvesting, record keeping, seed business management, seed regulation and marketing. Seed production has

increased dramatically. Seed purity and germination rates now exceed 90 per cent, compared with less than 50 per cent prior to the project, and the profits and livelihoods of seed producers have consequently improved. Farmers growing indigenous vegetable seeds for private seed companies are now earning US\$ 4500 annually.

The results are real. Through testimonials by participating farmers, the project is making significant contribution towards people's livelihoods. The vegetables are contributing towards food and nutrition security. Through crop diversification, the vegetable production as well as the seed enterprises makes significant changes in household incomes. For

example, Mr. and Mrs. Boazi Sebai, quality declared seed growers in Kongwa, Tanzania spent Tsh 80,000 (US\$ 47) for all expenses to grow seed including buying improved seeds. They harvested 300kg of amaranth seed which they sold and earned a total of Tsh 750,000 (US\$ 440). From these proceeds they are constructing a permanent house.

"Before we were introduced to this project, life was very difficult because I was poor and often borrowed from my neighbours," says one farmer. "I could not afford to take my children to school. I am thankful for this project because my children now go to school and neighbours come asking for help from me."

Through the project, descriptors and quality starter seed have been produced for spider plant and amaranthus, ensuring a sustainable supply of seed to growers who have no formal contracts with seed companies. This work has also enabled the fast release of seven improved varieties of African indigenous vegetables in Tanzania. Traditional leafy vegetables are a main source of nutrition for many people in East Africa. With CABI helping farmers to access seed, this initiative is sure to bring benefit to a wide audience in Kenya and Tanzania.

For more information, please contact

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What determines **good & bad** flower growers

There are specific pests and diseases that affect different flower growing regions and at different seasons. How one is supposed to manage these problems is a quagmire since it requires a delicate balancing; making critical decision of how to control them, what to control and also the timing.

Higher altitude areas e.g. Kinangop are about 2600m above sea level, with high rainfall amount averaging 2300mm. They area is characterized by extreme cold and frost. Low altitude areas e.g. Athi River, temperatures are high as 50 degrees.

In low altitude areas one of the major problems is spider mites, lady birds, caterpillars, whiteflies and very minimal fungal diseases because the availability of water is very minimal. In kinangop for example the excess water brings issues and so their

problem is fungal mostly while in low altitude areas the pests are the major problem.

How to tackle these issues is what is fiddly. Sometimes temperatures of the day changes such that you find that it is very hot during the day and very cold at night. This means that above everything else one has to

understand the variety of the rose he is growing and with a bit of experience one should anticipate problems as they come.

Right now in Athi River, where Harvest Ltd is situated, is a season for spider mites, caterpillars and whiteflies but very little of fungal diseases. The windy conditions are

favorable as powdery mildew is concerned. There are rare chances of having powdery mildew, though it does not necessary mean it can't occur since it only require little fluctuations in temperature and some dew in the morning and not only rainfall. The water film on top of flower's leaves is enough to

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encourage powdery mildew spores generation. Later in the day when the weather becomes dry and windy, spreading of the spores occurs as this allows spores pollination and thus powdery can occur while other fungal diseases are not occurring.

Downey mildew requires a bit of time to germinate on the leaf like say 4 hours. If an agronomist activities are such that they are providing humidity even when it is dry, then there are chances of getting downey mildew e.g. reckless feeding and a lot of watering in the evening. As the temperatures falls down at night, where there is a sharp contrast in temperature variation between day and night, if the air inside the greenhouse had a lot of humid due to one own modified environment, may be due to feeding, leakages in the greenhouse, it means there a lot of water vapour in the greenhouse. During the night as the temperatures goes down the capability of air to hold certain amount of water goes down releasing the water to the environment, that is on top of the flower leafs and if it persists for about four hours then there is possibility of getting downey mildew attack even during dry periods.

Thus there need to be very right in terms of management of greenhouse activities; one

shouldn't do a lot of feeding towards the evening, beds should be properly managed and when such issues arise, greenhouse should be vent rated in the evenings so that the wind can go in and blow off the air that has a lot of humid. But the problem arise when one want to vent rate the greenhouse but have other issues such as caterpillars or powdery mildew that requires windy condition for spores to spread. Most of people are going for nets whereby they roll over the plastic but the net breaks the spores and caterpillars from spreading.

Basically what is needed is for one to understand the environment that satisfies certain conditions suitable for various attacks depending on the region and managing systems properly. The bottom line is that one need to get it right in the way he vent rate greenhouse, because much of the problems arise from air circulation. The greenhouse needs to be shorter and long. The greenhouses that are too wide have a problem with the efficiency of inside air circulation; meaning that they are most vulnerable to attacks, also the type of greenhouse and the direction



that it is facing in terms of wind direction matters.

The greenhouses need to face away from the wind. Every day it should get good air circulation, meaning the air that was there in the morning need to go out, another one come in, about five times a day. There are times you find that the same air which was in the morning is the same air in the afternoon which means all the diseases spores that are inside the greenhouse are extended up to the evening when the conditions for their germination becomes favorable. This can also be overcome by having fans to speed up air circulation. Fans works well in low altitudes especially when it is raining to make sure there is better air circulation.

For downey mildew to happen, it is a relationship between water and air being thick enough so that the spores which attacks the lower side of the leaves where we have stomata is thick enough to ensure that spores stay there without disturbance. When controlling downey mildew it is important to circulate the air which on the parallel will encourage powdery mildew. A balance should be struck because each of the activity might discourage one issue and encourage the other one. This is what determines good and bad growers; sometimes you have the knowledge but the balancing and what times one is doing it becomes the defining moment.

*By Patrick Njogu,
Harvest Flower Ltd*





Ultra-modern Business Park

You might have wondered what is all about the commotion happening at Farm Engineering Industries Limited Mombasa Road plot.

...Well, they are building a new state- of- the- art headquarters, which will have world – ranking facilities and introduce new technologies into East Africa for fabrication and machine re-building.

This significant investment which will encompass a show room, management offices, a 4 floor high spare – parts warehouse, a training center, a technical department, an engine – re build section, a full fabrication division with 20T capacity gantries, a machine shop with laser cutting, profile cutting, bending, drilling, milling, rolling, power saws and lathe machines.

Their existing Kisumu and Kampala facilities will remain as they are. With planned branches across East Africa, this new HQ, a new branch in Mombasa this year- we pose a sustained commitment to support their customers region wide.





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Chrysal Campaigns to Reduce Water Waste & Usage



The people of Chrysal work hard to keep flowers beautiful for as long as possible. They search for sustainable solutions which can create an added value for the whole horticultural chain - from grower to the retailer and finally to the consumer. Products that have been developed according to the guidelines within their Corporate Responsibility program can be recognized by the Chrysal Cares logo on the labels.

Last year, the Chrysal Cares projects focused especially on water. Worldwide people need to maintain and improve the quality and quantity of fresh water available to future generations. There are possibilities to reduce waste and water usage in the horticultural chain and Chrysal is contributing to achieve this.

For 2012-2013 they have started a number of new water-related projects, the most important ones being:

- The Mount Kenya water project, addressing the lack of water management in Kenya in collaboration with the Mount Kenya Growers Group, Laikipia Wildlife Forum and the Water Resource Management Authority.
- Reduce water usage at customers by demonstrating the savings Chrysal products

can realise. For example, the use of Chrysal RVB Clear enables the reduction of post-harvest water consumption by up to 75%.

The Mount Kenya Groundwater Project in Kenya is a response to the severe threat to water resources in Laikipia District, home to 14 flower farms. In 2009, the important Ewaso Nyiro River dried up for the first time in recorded history, boreholes also dried up and there was an outbreak of



cholera. All this led to the loss of human life and wildlife.

The aim with these projects is to restore perennial water flows, raise awareness and facilitate the governmental bodies.

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The WEIRD Horned Melon



You might have noticed the strange orange-green colored fruit with horn like spines. It is nothing other than horned melon or kiwano, which is native to the African deserts e.g. Kalahari. In Kenya, the fruit have grown wildly particularly in the hot areas like sagana in kirinyaga and in coast province.

The fruit is also known as melano, African horned cucumber, jelly melon, hedged gourd or English tomato. As the name rightly suggests, horned melon is a fruit with horn-like spines and it is known in Kenya as thorn melon, passion mwitu, parachichi mwitu or passion lenye tete maji. It shares many similarities with passion fruit other than the spikes on its skin.

Horned melon is a relatively new entrant to most parts of the world. It has relatively good taste and makes nice juice. When picked green and allowed to ripen, it tastes like a mix of cucumber and kiwifruit. It has a high demand and good local market prices due to its numerous medicinal



attributes, for it is said to be good for managing high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity.

It is low in calories, high in dietary fiber, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium and iron. It can be stored in room temperature for at least two months. This can be one of the reasons why it is used for decorative purposes in some parts of the world.

The confusing part of this fruit is when it comes to eating it. The edible part is the inner gelatinous part. All that is needed is to cut the fruit either vertically or horizontally and scoop out the inner flesh whose taste can be enhanced by adding

a little bit of salt or sugar. Another method of eating it, is to cut the fruit into half (vertically) and cut it further to form long strips. These strips can be eaten, the same way watermelon strips are eaten. You can eat the scooped out jelly along with vanilla ice cream or yogurt. The seeds are also edible and are like passion fruits seeds. When purchasing the fruit, go for those with orange colored rinds, which are firm.

Its seed germination and planting is similar to passion fruits growing, with maturity period being around 4 months. Farming this strange and distinct looking fruit is an emerging agribusiness activity which is fast expanding.

HortiFlora Ethiopia 2013

HortiFlora Ethiopia organized by EHPEA & HPP will be taking place from Wednesday March 20 to Friday March 22, 2013 at the Millennium Hall in downtown Addis Ababa. With this expo Ethiopia has found an excellent occasion to promote its floricultural & horticultural industries. This is the fourth time that it is being held and it continues as a Biennial Trade Fair.

Ethiopian Horticulture & Floriculture sector has developed in the past 7 years towards a full grown player putting itself on the world map as one of the leading exporters of cut flowers. The area under greenhouses grew with an average of about 50 hectares per month in the same period. Ethiopian government has put a lot of emphasis on the development of the industry thus it is responsible for a great deal of this enormous achievement.

The demand for flowers continues to surge even as prices Dip

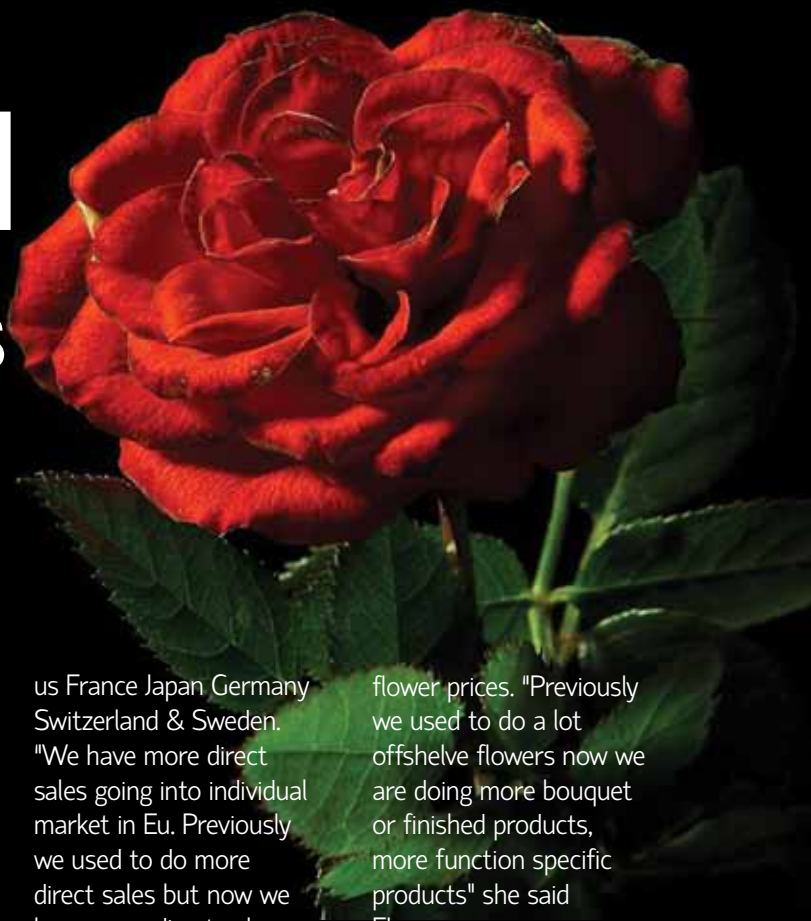
As the world celebrated the valentine day, not everything is flowery as it seem.

The economic troubles in the Eurozone region have caused a 15 percent drop in the price of Kenya's flower exports over the last one year. This is according to the Kenya Flower Council which has now been forced to look outside Europe for additional markets for Kenya's flower produce. The council says the flower exports prices have

dipped by about 15%, over the last one year hurting earnings by producers. The decline has been blamed by slow uptake of flowers in traditional market in EU where economic meltdown is still unfolding. "When you compare to other years yes we have seen a drop of about 15% and we can understand why this is happening" said Mrs Jane Ngige CEO Kenya Flower Council. That notwithstanding the demand for flowers continues to surge and now the flower council says it is increasingly focusing on developing newly found markets such

us France Japan Germany Switzerland & Sweden. "We have more direct sales going into individual market in Eu. Previously we used to do more direct sales but now we have more direct sales going into the individuals markets in EU and sort of deviating from what was a traditional, just sales from auction" said Ngige. The council intends to work together with other regional players in the floriculture to maintain flower quality standards as a mean of stabilising

flower prices. "Previously we used to do a lot offshelve flowers now we are doing more bouquet or finished products, more function specific products" she said Flower growers are encouraged to adopt new methods of production in order to enhance the competitiveness of Kenya produce. With those measures in place the industry is hopeful the flower output will reach 121,000 tonnes annually and earn the country at least 45 billion shillings.



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Pictorials of attendants of the recently launched, rebranded Greenlife Crop Protection Africa Ltd, during their one-month training programme held in Kitengela, Thika, Nakuru, Eldoret, Laikipia and Naivasha.





Luna® Sensation is an outstanding new fungicide with unparalleled efficacy on problematic diseases thus leads to:

- Improved flower quality
- Longer vase life
- Improved storability
- Increased marketability

Luna® fungicides offer a new way to protect specialty crops from disease, as well as manager resistance. With three unique formulations- Luna Sensation, Luna Experience and Luna Tranquility- growers worldwide, now have a systemic solution proven to control a wide range of floriculture and horticultural diseases. Effective on roses, other ornamentals, Luna provides unprecedented control of some of the most problematic fungal diseases to help growers deliver the best possible flowers, fruits, nuts and vegetables.

Mode of action

Luna® sensation belongs to a new and unique chemical class of fungicides- pyridinyl ethyl benzamide and strobilurins. It differ from other fungicides in its chemistry and in the spectrum of diseases it control. Fluopyram mode of action ia as a SDHI (succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor), blocking the energy production in the cells of the fungus. Trifloxystrobin is a respiratory inhibitor, intrerrupting the electron transfer within the mitochondria of fungal cells.

It inhibits

- Spore Germination
- Germ tube elongation
- Mycelia growth and sporulation

It combines the contact, mesostemic and translaminar properties of Trifloxystrobin and the systemic and translaminar properties of Fluopyram.

Directions for use

Luna® is applied as a full foliage cover. Targets Powdery mildew. Apply preventively at 7 to 10 day interval depending on the disease pressure. Maximum 3 consecutive applications per flush cycle.

Luna® sensation is a registered trade mark of Bayer east Africa Limited, Cropscience Division,
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As different species and varieties of ornamentals may differ in their sensitivity to pesticides, users are advised to always check for the crop tolerance by first treating a few plants before large scale application is undertaken.

The volume of the spray to be used should be sufficient to give a high level of penetration nad wetting of the foliage.

Application rate

0.3L/ha in 1000L water

Re entry Period: 6 Hrs

As a general rule, treated areas should not be entered before spray deposits on the leaf surface have dried, unless protective clothing is worn.

Why Luna®

- Offers a new way to protect flowers from disease , as well as resistance management.
- Has excellent protection at low dose rates and has a favorable ecotoxological profile.
- Control powdery mildew, botrytis and postharvest diseases, giving excellent control of powdery mildew and botrytis.
- Help growers deliver high quality flowers at harvest and in post harvest by protecting against powdery mildew and botrytis diseases.

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- Improved flower quality
- Longer vase-life
- Improved storability
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