

ALL AFRICA HORTICULTURE CONGRESS PLANNING COMMITTEE

The proceedings of the planning meeting for the All Africa Horticulture Congress held on 24th September 2008 in KEPHIS HQ.

Present

1. Dr. Washington Otieno – KEPHIS– Chairing.
2. Dr. Lusike Wasilwa – KARI.
3. Dr. Stephen Mbithi – FPEAK.
4. Dr. Alfred Serem – HCDA.
5. Ms. Susan Wambugu – HCDA.
6. Dr. Subramanian Sergan – ICIPE.
7. Dr. Monicah Waiganjo – Horticultural Assoc of Kenya / KARI.
8. Ms. H. Wanja Njoroge – Min of Agric (Hort Dept).
9. Dr. John M. Wesonga – JKUAT.
10. Mr. Joseph Kigamwa – KEPHIS – Taking minutes.

Absent with apologies

1. Dr. Chagema Kedera – KEPHIS.

The meeting started at 10.00 am with self introduction.

Min 1/24/9/08 Opening Remarks

1. The meeting had been specifically called to discuss preparation for the planned All Africa Horticulture Congress (AAHC). It must be recognised that this is an inter-governmental initiative.
2. The remarks by the Agriculture Secretary, Dr. Wilson Songa were read and there were concurrence that KARI a government agency, would be the chair the initiatives for planning the Congress and FPEAK would be the co-chair.
3. It is important that all institutions are recognised as equal parties although under the leadership of KARI and FPEAK.
4. The congress website under Global Horticulture Initiative (GHI) would need to be updated to incorporate ICIPE.
5. PCPB would need to be considered as part of this committee.
6. The Congress is real collaborative work with a strong bearing on the industry. It therefore has to showcase changes, workable opportunities and provide opportunities to open avenues to consolidate support and performance of the horticulture sub-sector.
7. Agenda items discussed were:
 - a) The date, venue and expected number of participants of the congress.
 - b) Communication.
 - c) Roles for various institutions in organising the Congress.
 - d) Funding and cost of the congress.
 - e) Timeline for submission of the abstracts.
 - f) Date for the next planning meeting.
 - g) AOB.

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Min 2/24/9/08 The date, venue and expected number of participants of the congress

1. The dates for the congress that have been published in the website are 26th to 30th April 2009. These dates were initially proposed by Kenya.
2. The dates may not be workable since it is not possible to organise in such a short time a good congress especially given that it involves a variety of stakeholders. It is proposed that this be revised to end of August 2009. This would enable proper planning.
3. Two sets of date were suggested: 25th to 28th August 2009 (preferred) or 18th to 21st August 2008.
4. It was indicated that the definitive dates will be confirmed when the contract is signed.
5. A possible program should be two days of conference (in a Nairobi hotel), one day of field visit (Thika or Naivasha) and one day of excursion (Mara or Mombasa). Ideally the program should be 4 to 5 days.
6. It was reported that the contract for this congress has already been sent to Kenya.
7. The congress will be held in Nairobi, possibly at Safari Park Hotel as the envisaged number of participants will be about 300.
8. Other venues shall be considered in addition to Safari Park.

Min 3/24/9/08 Communication

1. Progress on the planning was to be communicated regularly to GHI.
2. The website was to be a communication channel with a private section (for organisers) to access e.g. minutes of planning meetings and publicity (for all).
3. Communication from now onwards would be streamlined and will be through the chair of the organising committee.

Min 4/24/9/08 Roles

1. KARI – will chair the planning committee; co-ordinate all logistics; set-up logistical mechanisms; provide linkage with other African research institutions.
2. JKUAT and HAK – co-ordinate all universities in Kenya and Africa; mobilize country presentations; review abstracts.
3. HCDA – Responsible authority for horticulture; link government to government together with Ministry of Agriculture; take lead on government issues.
4. ICIPE – Co-ordinate international liaison with similar institutions from Africa; resource backstopping especially on technical issues in horticulture; review abstracts.
5. KEPHIS – Co-ordinate sector players; serve as secretariat.
6. Ministry of Agriculture – Oversee commitment of all institutions in preparation for the congress.
7. FPEAK – co-ordinate the preparation of industry; ensure sufficient corporate representation; bring 12 countries in Africa with similar structures; mobilise corporate funding; co-ordinate exhibition at a fee.

