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## Building a Critical Mass: Strengthening Horticultural Science

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CTA Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for  
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## Outline

- Introduction
- What is horticulture
- What is Horticultural Science
- Advocating/Elevating the Horticultural Science profession
- Critical mass re HR4D
  - The role of GlobalHort

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## Rationale for advocating for horticulture for development:

- *Horticulture makes efficient use of small land holdings, scarce water, and family labour (women and children)*
- *Horticulture promotes entrepreneurship*
- *Horticultural foods rich in essential micronutrients*
- *Fruit trees, bushes and perennial root crops contribute to food security and farm income*

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## Assumptions and limiting factors:

- *Horticulture is both knowledge and skills intensive. Success depends on:*
- *Adequate knowledge of*
  - *Crop options*
  - *Appropriate cultivation practices*
  - *Water management principles*
  - *Pest and disease control*
  - *Harvest and handling practices*
  - *Marketing*
- *Good judgment about investing in expensive inputs*
- *Presence of a critical mass of 'professional' support*

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### What is Horticulture? High value plant agriculture embracing:

- *Vegetables:*
  - *Leafy vegetables*
  - *Vegetable fruits and flowers*
  - *Root vegetables*
- *Flowers and woody ornamentals (bushes and trees)*
- *Medicinal and aromatic plants (herbs)*



### What is Horticulture? High value plant agriculture embracing:

- *Fruits and nuts*
  - *Bush and vine fruits*
  - *Tree fruits and nuts – evergreen and deciduous, temperate to tropical*
- *Urban horticulture (parks and gardens)*
- *Specialty crops like mushrooms and turf grass*



**Horticultural scientists study the biology, management and utilization of these high value plants and gain an appreciation of how they can best serve humankind**

*Horticultural Science has academic Department status within most Colleges of Agriculture around the world*



**Maintaining Horticultural Science Departments is a modern-day challenge for this profession, *but it is a challenge shared with other agricultural science disciplines***

*At present it is a larger issue in the 'north' than in the south*



### ISHS is taking three approaches to addressing this challenge:

1. *On-line forum to generate professional consensus about how and where to lobby, and what to lobby for*
2. *Substantive efforts to educate the general public about horticulture (an essential life science!), aimed especially at young people*

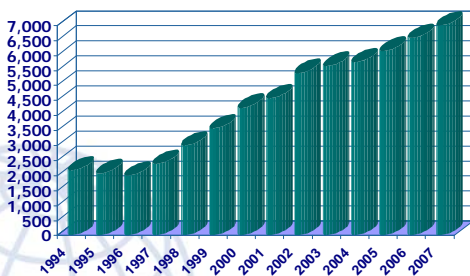


### ISHS is taking three approaches to addressing this challenge:

3. *Grow the Society by making it more attractiveness to a wider range of colleagues*
  - *Through partnerships with related societies*
  - *By forming new Sections, Commissions and Working Groups*
  - *A Society of 7,000 has a bigger voice than one of 2,000!*



### Individual Members of ISHS



### Achieving a Critical Mass for Supporting 'Horticulture for Development'

### The role of the Global Horticulture Initiative (GlobalHort)



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## The Global Horticulture Initiative

([www.globalhort.org](http://www.globalhort.org))

■ **GlobalHort:**

- Advocates for horticulture science and industry to reduce poverty and improve nutrition of the world's poorest
- Connects and informs the international community of professions engaged in "horticulture for development"
- Supports strategic research and development projects
- Builds human capacity for horticultural science and industry in developing countries



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## GlobalHort approaches to capacity building:

- ISHS will hold more horticulture science symposia in developing countries
- GlobalHort with partners\* will organize 'training for trainers' in conjunction with these symposia
- GlobalHort, with partners\*, will support key participants from the south

\*ISHS, CTA, COL, CIRAD, DG-DEV, FAO, CGIAR Centers etc.



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## GlobalHort approaches to capacity building (2):

- Networking of horticultural science professionals (workshops, webpage, newsletters)
- Establishing 5 regional centers for advocacy, networking, training and extension in SubSaharan Africa\*
- Establishment and ongoing development of the GlobalHort knowledge portal

\*Contingent on success of CORIPHA proposal to DG DEV (EU)



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**Thanks for your attention!**

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