



## **ZAMBIA NATIONAL POSITION PAPER**

### **Video Conference on High Value Agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa: *Standards and Market Preferences: Opportunities and Constraints (27 July 2010)***

---

#### **1. Present status of standards (international and national ones if any) for horticultural produce**

All fresh produce exports and imports have to meet Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS). These are determined by importing countries and the SPS inspections are based on this with reference to International Standards for Phytosanitary measures. Standards for imports are based on pest risk analysis and these are regularly reviewed depending of pest situation in the country and those from which imports come from. There are SPS inspectors at all points of entry/exit into/out of the country. In some cases conformity inspections have to be done. These inspections are conducted by the Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Services of the Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI).

Commercial exports have additional standards which have to be met. Exports to Europe need to meet GlobalGap standards while exports to some countries such as England, Switzerland and Holland require additional standards. The export sector has been pressurized into conforming with standards relating to working conditions, environment and employment of women among others. The Zambia Export Growers Association (ZEGA) has established a code of practice benchmarked against the GlobalGap which all members have to meet. Within the local market some standards have to meet for sales to big supermarkets. These are prescribed to the potential suppliers.

In addition to having SPS inspectors ZARI has specialists dedicated to improving the production management of fresh produce so that it can meet prescribed standards. This is a public institution which research wing of the agriculture ministry. The University of Zambia also has a faculty which teaches and conducts research in these areas. The ZEGA/Natural Resources Development College (NRDC) Trust was developed with donor support to meet commercial export sector management staff requirements, and was later handed over to the NRDC which is a public institution. The commercial export sector is concerned with the performance of the SPS inspections and supports the service by soliciting donor support for staff training and purchase of equipment among others.

#### **2. Present management of the crisis around standards (too many ones, GlobalGAP versus national GAP, food miles, Green Pass, fair trade etc.)**

The commercial export sector is concerned with the multiplicity of standards but has not done much about it, the issue being global and sector very small. ZEGA joined the Horticultural Council of Africa which was formed with support from FAO and also gets support from Denmark which is trying to address the issue among others but not much has been achieved.

### **3. On-going strategy at regional level**

The Horticultural Council of Africa is still in its infancy and needs to be developed. Stakeholders are in the process of establishing a broader based national organization to better coordinate with regional efforts.