

Increased Regional Trade: Opportunities and Issues - Uganda

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By

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Present status of regional trade for horticultural produce

□ Uganda Horticulture Statistics

- Export \$35mill. Flowers and \$11m FFV, incl. EU & region
- 2nd largest producer of FFV in SSA, after Nigeria, at 1.1m mt/yr
- Regional exports informal, only 20% recorded
- Organic production high, but no regional exports
- Matooke, pineapples, beans and peas are dominant regional exports of fruits and vegetables

Present status of regional trade for horticultural produce

- ❑ Are there National Organizations addressing the main issues on horticulture?
 - Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB)
 - HPOU advances sector interests, focus on European exports
 - UNFFE for general farmers advocacy, not horticulture specialized
 - NOGAMU for organics general organic production and trade
 - UNBS for standards
 - National task force on Horticulture

- ❑ Are there national programs that have been put in place to enhance the regional trade of horticultural produce?
 - No known program to promote regional trade in horticulture

Present status of regional trade for horticultural produce (2)

- ❑ Is there any national data base consolidating results?
 - Data scattered among agencies/projects UBOS, FIT Uganda and FOODNET, RATIN

- ❑ Are there University Faculties / Research Institutes with specialists dedicated to the topic?
 - Makerere University, Mountains of the Moon University, NaCRRI/NARO for horticulture R&D and training
 - UIRI for industrial R&D
 - None of them focus on regional trade

Key Constraints to Regional Horticulture Trade

1. Bureaucratic red tape
2. NTBs –
 1. Policy
 2. Health related & other TBTs – GAP standards for semi processed products
 3. Administrative – delays at customs
 4. poor trade infrastructure - incompatible rail system
3. High post harvest losses
4. High air transport costs
5. Fruit flies cause high losses
6. Undeveloped packaging industry, especially glass
7. Rudimental seed systems

Processors use imported packaging



Present management of the constraints to regional trade

- ❑ Is there local expertise for identification and characterization of specific constraints?
 - Expertise is available
 - Reliable data is not available
- ❑ Is there existence of an ad hoc committee bringing together public entities and private sector?
 - The National Task Force on horticulture but focuses on standards for European markets
 - 3-yr WSSD project funded by the Netherlands Embassy
- ❑ Is there current donor assistance in this area?
 - 3-yr WSSD project funded by the Netherlands Embassy
 - COLEACP PIP program for standards and compliance
- GoU has own initiatives – rural roads, seeds systems, railway upgrade, water transport development

On-going strategy at regional level

- Have there been any attempts of regional coordination?
 - COMESA harmonization
 - EAC treaty
 - FTA proposed by COMESA and SADC in 2008
 - FTA excludes DRC and Angola
 - Bureaucratic Red Tape is a key issues with trading blocs
- EAC is to coordinate procurement of fertilizer for entire region –resolved in 2010

Urban Horticulture initiatives

- Through the NGO Kampala Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock Coordinating Committee (KUFSALCC)
- Mainly revision of hindering statutes

Important Questions

1. How can we make statistical data more readily available and usable?
2. What roles can best be played by commodity associations in promoting regional trade?
3. Can they work with existing political establishments without tension?
4. Can they arbitrate between buyers and sellers?
5. Which entities should lead regional coordination programs on horticulture?