



Proceedings of the First General Assembly of the Global Horticulture Initiative

Attendance: 45 persons (list in Annex 1). Excused: A. Kanouté

Welcome address: R. Kahane, interim Executive Secretary of GlobalHort

- side event of the GFAR Conference
- follow-up of the launch meeting of March 2006
- informal event to support the consensus on some key issues:
 - objective of the consortium
 - core activities of the consortium
 - legal status and related items (location of the head office)

1. Introduction of the Executive Committee members: T.A. Lumpkin, Chair of the ExCom

- Brief history of GlobalHort
 - although the World Vegetable Center is hosting and promoting GlobalHort, fruits as well as vegetables are considered in this initiative, with no priority.
- Activities of the past three months
 - nomination of the Executive Committee members: T. Lumpkin (Chair), N. Looney (ISHS), W. Dar (CGIAR Alliance-ICRISAT), G. Saint-Martin (ARI-CIRAD), H. Gunasena (GFAR-APAARI), A. Kanouté (GFAR-FARA), B. Giyose (Health sector-NEPAD).

2. Achievements and framework: R. Kahane, interim Executive Secretary of GlobalHort

- Lobbying
 - Europe: visits to the European Commission (DG-Research, DG-Development), WUR, CTA, the ACP Secretariat, CIM, and to SDC. The main outcomes were:
 - i) the support of ACP representation to organize an awareness event for the EC in Brussels on the horticulture issues for developing countries (May 2007)
 - ii) the support of CIM and GTZ for two positions of integrated experts to GlobalHort
 - iii) the support of donors to GlobalHort on the basis of focused concept notes.
 - It has been suggested to contact each representing embassy of the ACP countries in Brussels to get their official support and inform important officials about the awareness meeting.
- Promotion
 - IHC Seoul: visitors to the GlobalHort booth; contacts with ISHS science leaders identifying ISHS symposia that may be worthy of GlobalHort support (Fruits and Vegetables for Human Health in 2007, Urban Horticulture in 2008)
- Commitment of donors
 - Multi-donor funding is advocated as much as possible.
 - Taiwan: core funding of \$500,000 in 2006, allowing activities during 2006. Further funding committed (\$ 1 M in 2007).
 - France: supported GlobalHort launch in Montpellier, seconded position of interim Executive Secretary from CIRAD, support for project on horticultural research and capacity building to be finalized in 2007 (€ 3 M over 3 years).



- Germany: two staff positions from CIM/GTZ to be located at the GlobalHort head office provided it is located in a developing country. Additional core funding under discussion.
 - Canada: CIDA granted project on horticultural research and capacity building to be finalized in 2007 (no amount defined yet).
- Support
 - Engaged: Africa Botanica in Guinea, Oct. 2006 (matching funds), IVS in Hyderabad India, Dec. 2006 (sponsorship)
 - Promised: PROFEL (Cameroon, Apr. 2007), FAV4H (Texas, Oct. 2007)
 - Foreseen: ICV-VEGINET (Brazil, Sept. 2007), ISUP (Tanzania, 2008), ISHU (Hortus in Urbe, 2008)
 - Rules for granting: this should be defined by the Executive Committee and be managed by the Executive Secretary through Technical Task Forces
3. Vision and general objectives – points put forward during open discussion
- Vision/Mission
 - the vision of GlobalHort is confirmed to be pro-poor, for small-scale householders, farmers or entrepreneurs.
 - the private sector shall be associated as long as it creates links and opportunities for the small-scale actors.
 - the mission is one of promoting research, not research management. An umbrella is considered to be the right descriptor.
 - an additional original characteristic of GlobalHort shall remain: pooling research results from Health to Plant sectors, and inter-regionally (not only from North to South, but strongly from South to South).
 - Objectives/Core activities
 - some participants were confused by the array of activities contemplated for the Initiative. The document paper needs to be more focused.
 - there should be some ranking of the four core activities.
 - milestones to be identified and a business plan developed
 - the program of granted projects must be understood as strategic support for horticultural research for development (R4D) conducted by others. GlobalHort will not implement R4D projects.
 - the suggestion that GlobalHort employ a complementary (consensual?) rather than competitive granting procedure was put forward and discussed. A mechanism to define the demand or need must be developed. The idea of seed money to get people working together to prepare proposals needs to be implemented.
 - networking activities are strongly supported by FAO, in both directions: data base management (Hortivar for crop information, AGORA for access to scholarly journals) and information exchange (Radhort, Veginet, Fruitnet).
 - there needs to be better definition of who are the clients of the portal of Horticultural Research for Development.
 - training and other human capacity building efforts supported by GlobalHort shall focus on horticultural science and industry professionals (training the trainers), rather than on farmers and private stakeholders.
 - advocacy shall be based on research results.



4. Organization, roles and duties – points made by various speakers
- Structure of GlobalHort/ Institutional status
 - The structure shall remain small, light and flexible to remind all that GlobalHort is not an additional institution, but an instrument for potentiating the work of existing institutions.
 - GlobalHort needs rules to inform the functioning of the consortium. The interim Executive Committee will develop a governing system (guidelines) to be presented to the next General Assembly. It is suggested that there is no urgent need for a stronger legal status at present.
 - One Executive Committee, or Board, is enough if it is representative of all the stakeholders who intend to play a role in Horticultural Research for Development. Scientific, financial or technical advisors shall be consulted in the framework of task forces only, no need for an additional formal committee.

 - Membership and partnership
 - Constitution of the Executive Committee: as long as it is a free partnership, volunteer institutions are welcome, and members are selected by consensus.
 - A consortium agreement shall be produced by the Executive Committee.
 - CARDI expressed its strong interest in and support for GlobalHort and wishes to see a regional representative for the Caribbean.

 - The Executive Committee members
 - the members of the interim Executive Committee announced earlier were formally accepted
 - the representation of farmers on one hand, of the donors on the other, was discussed and there was consensus that:
 - i) the Executive Committee remains interim until the seat for the private sector and one additional seat for farmers' organizations are filled. NGOs are already represented through Ms. Assétou Kanouté, mandated by FARA.
 - ii) it is recommended that donors form a GlobalHort Advisory Group to provide advise and feedback to the Executive Committee.
 - iii) the guidelines will be approved in General Assembly, too.
 - iv) the General Assembly has an advisory role. The complete ExCom will be acknowledged in General Assembly, next year.

 - *the interim Executive Committee shall produce the terms of reference for the Executive Secretary, to be advertised beginning of next year.*

 - Location
 - Arusha, Tanzania, has been acknowledged to host the head office of GlobalHort as soon as networking facilities are available. This should enable donors officially funding an institution in a developing country.
 - The main points for the hosting site are: large size and connectivity.
5. Prospective and strategy
- Challenge Programs of the CGIAR
 - two potential new Challenge Programs including horticultural issues and commodities: i) high value commodities and products, ii) underutilized plants.
 - even without Challenge Program dedicated to Horticulture, the CGIAR should organize its activities on horticulture with its partners (NARS, ARI, Universities ...). GlobalHort has therefore a role to play to facilitate the partnership between all.



- USAID CRSP
 - connection with the GHA and ASHS to be better established.
 - contact persons: Peter McPherson, George Wilson

- Connection to other initiatives
 - FAO-WHO: (PROFEL, RadHort, Veginet) already on-going, a real partnership is aimed. Further thoughts are needed to define the real priorities, and to take into account the concerns about the supply (public health concerns on phytosanitary residues for instance). It has been suggested to link GlobalHort to the World Food Day of FAO for next year.



Annexe 1 – List of participants

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