



Special Side Event at FARA General Assembly

HORTICULTURE: AN ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR URBAN AND RURAL BALANCED DEVELOPMENT

**11 June 2007, (Time 13:30 pm – 16:30 pm; Venue: Sandton Convention Center)
Sandton City, Johannesburg, South Africa**

Purpose:

This workshop aims at sharing experiences, establishing networking bases and preparing a program of projects and initiatives like the first International Symposium on Urban Horticulture in Africa (2008).

Background:

More than fifty per cent of the world population is now living in cities, with a high urbanizing rate. That leads to the growth of urbanized areas, competition for natural (land, water) and human resources, and to new demands and priorities towards food and environment. GlobalHort vision is to address these requirements as new opportunities for horticulture, as its perishable products must be produced close to the cities, through intensive cropping systems that are constrained by space and market.

Three major issues make horticulture a key sector for the future of city supply and well balanced development of urban and rural areas:

- High value products: the small scale farmers will have a place and an access to the market if their products meet a demand. A role for research would be to develop methods and skills to analyse the demand, to convert it into farming, trading, marketing or processing recommendations, generating thus well distributed added value.
- Food quality and safety: the consumers' requirements are connected to supply, freshness and diversity. Education and capacity building on one hand, information and control systems acknowledged by the stakeholders on the other hand, are the main strategic tools to target this issue.
- Multifunctional role of horticulture: horticulture is not only a food provider to urban citizens, it also provides green and open space, job employment and opportunities to women, to low educated people and the poorest population, as well as to the richest one. It is essential to include and consider horticulture in the urbanizing strategy, as environmental moderator and as socio-economic factor.

GlobalHort is promoting research for development in horticulture, and for city supply, urban as well as rural horticulture shall complement rather than compete. This is the main message we would like to deliver, in order to gather all partners and put together all the forces to alleviate poverty, increase wealth and improve health every where. And horticulture has a great potential to be the agro-economic engine that can achieve this. Together with FARA, ISHS and Urban Harvest we will contribute to the first international symposium on Urban Horticulture to be held in Africa next year, and this will also be discussed during the side-event.

Participants at side-event:

Participation is open to ALL, particularly representatives of Sub-regional organizations (SROs), Regional Economic Groupings (RECs), NARS including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Universities, ARIs, CG Centres, and donor agencies.

Schedule of Events:

Time	Topic	Speaker/Moderator
(5 minutes)	Opening Welcome Remarks by Chairperson/Moderator	Dr. Paco Sérimé, Executive Secretary of CORAF/WECARD
(10 minutes)	Horticultural issues for planning African city supply in harmonized development of urban and rural areas	Dr Monty Jones, Executive Secretary, FARA
(10 minutes)	GlobalHort will contribute to gather, network and synergize the forces in horticulture for the development	Dr Rémi Kahane, Executive Secretary, GlobalHort
(60 minutes)	Experiences in urban horticulture in Africa: lessons and prospective	Representatives for Urban Harvest, Eco-Cité, IAGU, CAUPA ¹
(40 minutes)	Facilitated discussion and exchange of views and experience in plenary	Led by Moderator
(10 minutes)	Opportunity offered by the new platform Europe-Africa (PAEPARD)	Dr Jacky Ganry
(15 minutes)	Synthesis of the session and agreement on key outputs to be presented at FARA General Assembly	Rapporteurs

¹ each speaker will have 15 minutes

Pertinent questions to be considered for discussion at side-event:

1. How to highlight the horticultural sector as an engine for urban development project?

2. How to promote horticulture as a link to the other agricultural and economic sectors, and as a link between rural and urban areas?
3. How to link anglophone and francophone communities working on the urban agriculture?
4. What should the Global Horticulture Initiative cover, and how could it be operated complementarily to other initiatives and roles of FARA, SROs, NARS, various networks, IARCs and other parties?

Key Outputs

- Consensus on the role of GlobalHort in combination with PAEPARD, Urban Harvest, RUAF and other “platforms” for an integrated strategy on urban horticulture.
- Agreement on sub-regional hub and coordination promoting urban horticulture and networking all concerned communities.
- Next steps determined including recommendation on the PAEPARD project and GlobalHort initiative to the FARA GA 2007
- Agreement on a schedule for concerted activities like an international symposium on urban horticulture next year in Africa.

Co-Conveners

This side event is co-sponsored by FARA and GlobalHort (the Global Horticulture Initiative, www.globalhort.org). Because of their global mandate, GlobalHort and Urban Harvest will moderate the side-event while FARA and the SROs will lead and coordinate the management of this theme at the regional and sub-regional levels. The NARS will be directly engaged with the hands-on work on production, marketing, transformation, consumption and governance aspects of Africa’s horticultural products in and for urban areas.

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