



ZAMBIA CONFERENCE REPORT
Video Conference on High Value Agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa:
Smallholder Involvement in Horticulture 2 November 2010
By Phillip Siamuyoba and Chance Kabaghe

The following countries; Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Zambia participated in a live video conference on the topic “Smallholders’ involvement in Horticulture”.

The regional Coordinator, Mr. Remi Kahane gave welcome remarks, background and objectives of the video conference. The objectives were basically to share experiences between participating countries on the smallholders’ involvement in horticulture.

Each country was requested to introduce the participants. The National Coordinator, Mr. Chance Kabaghe introduced the participants for the Zambian team. The Zambian team comprised seven participants. Refer to appendix 1 attached.

Each country was given 10 minutes to make a presentation of a position paper on what was obtaining in each respective country. At the end of the presentations there was questions and answers session and each country was given an opportunity to ask general or specific questions.

What came out of the presentations?

- Smallholder farmers are involved in horticulture.
- Smallholder participation in horticulture has potential for poverty reduction.
- The sub-sector provides a major source of income for smallholder farmers.
- Over 80% of the smallholder farmers are involved in horticulture.
- Horticulture was the fastest growing sub-sector and was active in the domestic trade (Tanzania).
- Smallholders’ involvement in horticulture was well organized through formation of Associations that facilitated marketing of horticultural produce to the international markets (Kenya).

Challenges/Constraints

The following constraints were highlighted by most countries:

- Smallholder farmers lack access to finance resulting into low volumes.
- Inadequate extension training facilities for smallholder farmers throughout the value chain.
- Lack of supportive policy environment (Zambia).
- Product quality variability due to lack of standards
- High cost of inputs (Kenya).
- Marketing system not adequate (Tanzania).
- Logistical marketing arrangements are poor because farmers are scattered across the country (Uganda).

- Low product volumes by smallholder farmers (Zambia)
- Poor government support to the horticulture sub-sector (Zambia).

Strategies/Solutions

To address some of the challenges alluded to above the following strategies have been put in place by some countries:

- Farmer Training Centres have been established to train farmers in horticulture (Ethiopia)
- Increased smallholder farmer participation in horticulture (Ethiopia).
- Improved farmer access to inputs and marketing (Ethiopia).
- Provision of loans/grants (special fund set aside) through banks to farmers to cater for inputs. For instance US\$625 given per farmer group (Kenya).
- Formation of Farmer Associations (Kenya).
- Creation of funds with lending institutions through which farmers can access the funds (Mozambique).
- Provision of infrastructures such as cold rooms (Mozambique).
- Training of smallholder farmers in standards and compliance to meet the international market requirements (Kenya).

Lessons learnt

From the presentations made by the seven countries, the following lessons were drawn:

- Smallholders' involvement in horticulture was reported as being high by all the seven countries that participated in the video conference.
- Smallholder involvement in horticulture has a number of challenges as already alluded to by various countries.
- Smallholder farmers are not organized throughout the value chain.
- Smallholder farmers have less capital for investment in horticulture.
- Marketing of horticultural products by smallholder farmers is not organized.

Way forward for Zambia

During off-line post conference session moderated by the National Coordinator, the following came out as the way forward for Zambia:

- To lobby Government to be supportive to the horticulture sub-sector such as provision of extension training to smallholder farmers.
- To lobby Government to Provide loans and grants.
- To promote out grower schemes
- To establish a national Horticultural Association.

Closing remarks by the National Coordinator

At the end of the conference during off-line session, the National Coordinator thanked the his team members for their active participation during the conference and he looked forward to seeing them in the next video conference.

Appendix 1: List of Zambian participants

Name	Institution	Position
Mr. Chance Kabaghe	Food Security Research Project	Director
Mr. Mike Nyimbili	OPAPA	Secretary
Mr. Mukelabai Ndiyoi	Farming Systems Association of Zambia	President
Mrs. Shirley Ng'andu	University of Zambia	Lecturer
Mr. Phillip Siamuyoba	Ministry of Agric & Cooperatives	Principal Agricultural Officer
Dr. Mebelo Mataa	University of Zambia	Lecturer
Mr. Kenneth Chelemu	International Dev. Enterprises	Interim Country Director