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NEWSLETTER **ISSUE 013**

2ND QUARTER ACTIVITIES | APRIL - JUNE 2021

This newsletter presents activities and events that FPEAK was involved in for the months of April, May & June 2021.



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“NEXt Kenya – Enhancing Kenyan Horticultural Export”, is funded by the European Union through COLEACP. Its overall objective is to increase the contribution of the horticultural sector to household income through the generation of employment opportunities and foreign currency and to improve food security, food safety and nutrition by strengthening Kenyan horticultural value chains. The specific objective of this four-year programme (2020-2024) is to secure a lasting improvement in the capacity of all stakeholders to adapt to evolving sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS), commercial, social, and environmental requirements for local, regional, and international markets.

For more information, please view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quOqzmzU0d5g>

You can view FPEAK’s involvement in the NEXt project on <https://youtu.be/xklt7LAWofk>



FCM MANAGEMENT COACHING

The False Codling Moth (FCM) is posing an increasing threat to the export of roses from Kenya to the European Union. Despite efforts of farms, FPEAK and other key stakeholders in the horticulture industry, FCM is still being detected on a regular basis. As interceptions of roses with FCM are deemed too high, the EU is now considering increasing the sample size of inspections. So far, the frequency of inspections already increased from 5% to 10% this may now rise even further. Increased inspections have large consequences for Kenyan rose farmers in terms of costs, time and their competitive position. Moreover, continued interceptions will affect the Kenyan export sector as a whole.

To mitigate this risk KEPHIS has increased its measures with respect to production and export of roses in Kenya. In this regard, COLEACP, through the New Export Trade project (NExT) which is funded by the EU is supporting the coaching of rose flower producing farms to manage FCM. We have started this important activity with a number of our members. This will eventually target and reach out to all of our flower exporting member companies.

You can find a copy of the FCM management protocol on <https://fpeak.org/protocols-for-the-management-of-the-false-codling-moth-thaumatotibia-leucotreta-in-roses-in-kenya/>



The New Export Trade (NEXt Kenya) program is working on the development of a Good Practices Guides (GPG) for avocados, beans and peas to ensure these products meet international standards. The specific objective of this four-year program (2020-2024) is to secure a lasting improvement in the capacity of all stakeholders to adapt to evolving sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS), commercial, social, and environmental requirements for local, regional, and international markets.

The development of the Guide was launched in Nairobi on 25 May 2021 at Crowne Plaza Upper Hill by the Principal Secretary in the State Department for Crop Development and Agricultural Research in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives, Prof Hamadi Boga. The Good Practice Guides for beans and pods and avocado will be used by the value chain actors to demonstrate and enhance the nation's ability to comply with the SPS requirements of these products to external markets.

FPEAK is part of both technical working groups for both beans and pods as well as avocado.



KS1758 ROLL OUT

FPEAK has been contracted by RTI International which is running the USAID funded program Kenya Crops and Dairy Market Systems (KCDMS) to roll out KS 1758 part 2: Fruits and Vegetables in Kakamega, Busia, Vihiga, Bungoma, Siaya, Migori, Kisumu, Kisii, Homabay, Makueni, Kitui, Taita Taveta counties where KCDMS is running its programs.

FPEAK will target to train at least 300 county trade and agriculture officers on KS 1758 part 2. After this, FPEAK intends to train at least 300 FPEAK members, traders and other KCDMS partners.



TRADEMARK EAST AFRICA ACTIVITIES

50% Covid-19 Support for Certification

FPEAK members who applied for the 50% support from Trade Mark East Africa on certification fees benefitted with over KShs 5 million spent on the same. This fund was aimed at cushioning members from the adverse effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Members who might want to benefit from the same can still apply through the FPEAK secretariat. Please note that the budget is almost exhausted so this will be attended to on a first come, first served basis.

FCM Management in Roses and Capsicum

TMEA supported FPEAK and the horticulture industry in to develop a training video on management of FCM in roses and capsicum. This video is meant to assist growers in the roses and capsicum varieties to effectively manage the FCM pest. You can view the video on https://youtu.be/1_ex7lo1QRg

Logistics Support

TMEA supported a study which identified logistics as the heartbeat of the fresh produce industry. The objective of examining logistics was to improve competitiveness and enhance market access for Kenya's horticultural produce. The study examined the role of key actors in export logistics of fresh produce, which included FPEAK and other key stakeholders in the horticulture industry.

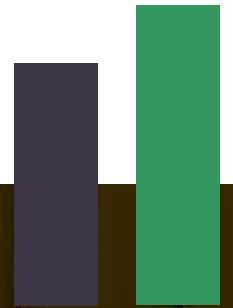
For more information you can find the report on <https://fpeak.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Fresh-Produce-Logistics-Report.pdf>



The Horticulture Industry Unveiled unveiled the KS 1758 Mark of Quality to ensure food safety, plant health, worker health & safety and environmental conservation on 5th July 2021 at Serena Hotel, Nairobi. The event was graced by the Director General, Agriculture and Food Authority Mr. Kello Harsama who indicated that AFA is committed to ensure that KS 1758 is implemented and will launch its strategy which will include measures to enforce KS 1758.

This mark of quality was a joint effort of the Horticultural Crops Development Authority, Retail Traders Association of Kenya (RETRAK), Steering Committee and the Standards Implementation Committee of KS 1758 with support from the Rockefeller Foundation. Once certified, produce will bear this mark of quality. FPEAK CEO, Mr. Hosea Machuki, emphasized on the importance of every player in the horticulture value chains to comply to the requirements of the KS 1758 standard.

This project will also develop a portal which will automate the certification process. The portal will be hosted within the AFA website and will include list of approved CBs, Trainers and educate consumers on the importance of KS 1758.



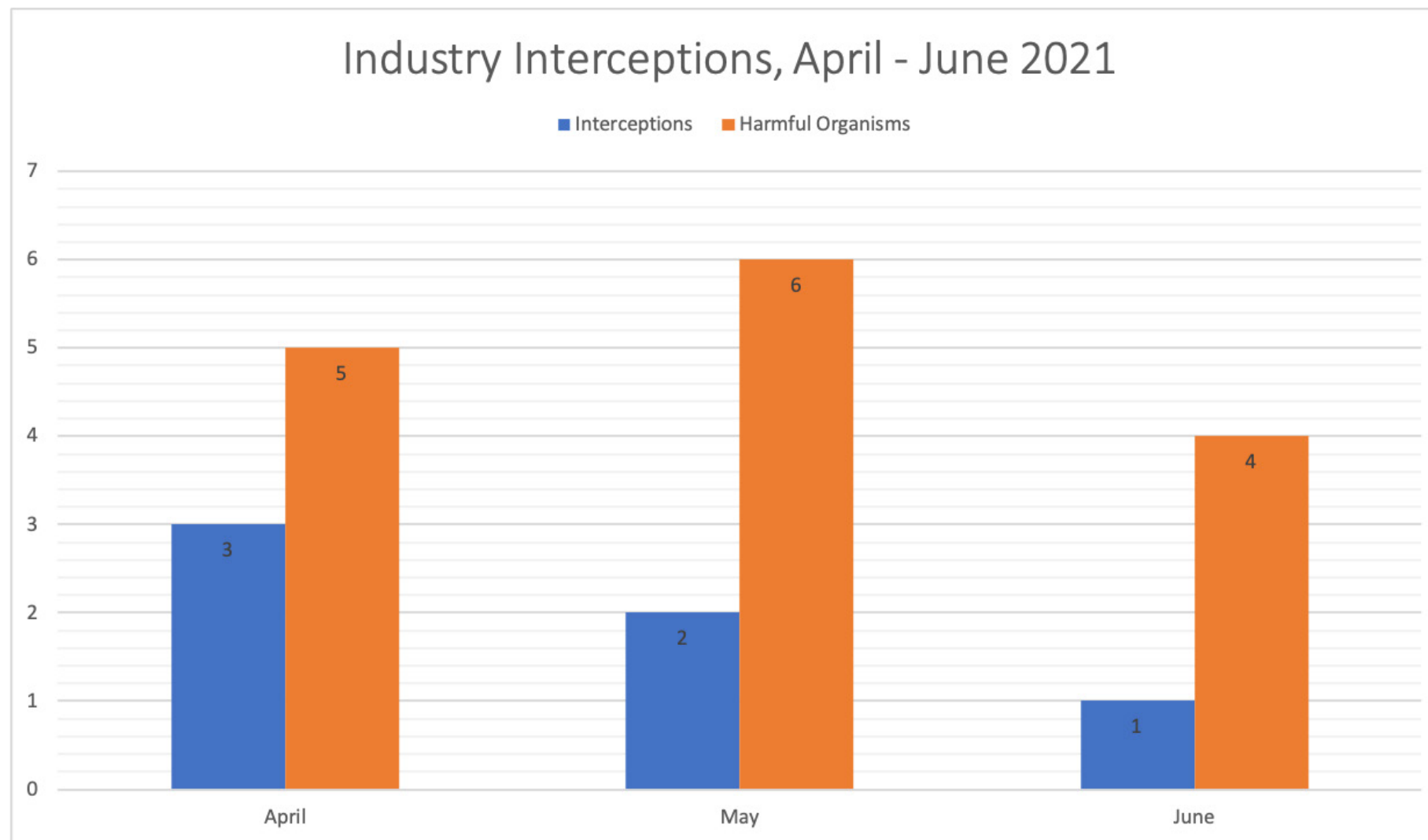
HCD PETITION UPDATE

FPEAK's advocate attended Court on 13th July 2021 for further directions on the subject application and petition. For the record, the respondents had only appointed advocates that morning with notices of appointment being the only documents from their side.

While objecting to their call for further compliance period, FPEAK's advocate informed the Court that members are already suffering under the hostile environment precipitated by the impugned Regulations. Additionally, the advocate highlighted that member companies did largely comply with the 30th June 2021 ultimatum by making payments on without prejudice basis. The advocate ensured that the Judge took note of the ongoing difficulties in terms of compliance with the levy requirement. At the same time, the advocate directly objected to the assertion by counsel appearing for the first Respondent who singularly identified public participation as the 'only issue' in the petition. Our advocate was clear as it is set out in the petition that it stands on two issues; that is lack of public participation and clear administrative platform for charging levy.

In avoiding our prayer for immediate conservatory orders, the Judge noted that the petition raises serious issues which will call upon him looking at the responses from the respondent before issuing any conservatory orders. As such, he once again certified the matter urgent and placed it on priority basis with further directions on conservatory orders reserved for 4th August 2021 (a day when all parties would have filed their respective responses and supplementary affidavit).

INDUSTRY STATISTICS



Documentation cases include: Additional Declaration Missing | Plant Passport: Incomplete | Plant Passport:copy/ Duplicata Not Endorsed | Incorrect Identity Declared On Documents | False Information

Harmful Organisms include: Thaumatotibia leucotreta | Scirtothrips aurantii |



4th Floor, New Rehema House
Raphta Road, Westlands
P.O.Box 40312 - 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA

+254 713 516 555
info@fpeak.org

www.fpeak.org