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NEWSLETTER **ISSUE 021**

2ND QUARTER ACTIVITIES | APRIL - JUNE 2023

This newsletter presents activities and events that FPEAK was involved in for the months of April, May & June 2023.



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KS-1758 Auditors Training

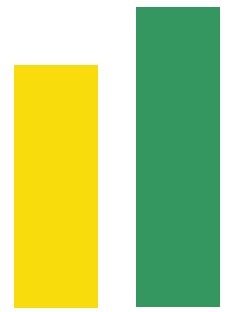
Reclaim Sustainability! Program

JKIA Beautification Project

Krnya - EU EPA

Beans & Peas/Avocado GPG

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KS 1758 AUDITORS TRAINING

FPEAK, through its capacity building unit, continues to provide training services to FPEAK members and other stakeholders in the horticulture subsector. FPEAK trained auditors attached to React Cert Africa Ltd on KS 1758 - Horticulture Code of Practice on 3rd to 7th April 2023 as a requirement for RCA to be accredited to audit on KS 1758 - Horticulture code of practice.

FPEAK encourages its members and stakeholders in the horticulture subsector to reach out for further information on the training offered.



Auditors attached to RCA Ltd pose for a group photo



STATUS OF COMPLIANCE OF CUT-FLOWERS TO THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET

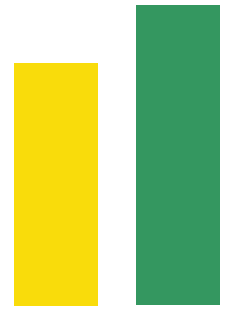
FPEAK was part of a virtual meeting hosted by KEPHIS 6th of April 2023 to discuss the status of compliance of cut-flowers to the Australian market. The meeting came at the back of a noticeable deterioration in Kenyan compliance rates since late 2022. This status has raised concern in the industry and has resulted in a notice from the Australian government. The meeting was opportunity for flower exporters in the sector to share the views and find solutions to the same.

From the discussions, the following way forwards were identified:

- KEPHIS would re-evaluate systems for pest control on farms with the highest notifications on non-compliance.
- Proposal to conduct farm exchange visits where non-performing farms were to visit the farms that were performing well.
- Proposal to use institute measures applied on shipment for the European Union.
- Introduction of more stringent measures.
- Check capacity of fumigation at airflow to ensure that operations are being done effectively.

FPEAK encourages members to comply with the market requirements of Australia and other markets so as to ensure foreign exchange.

FPEAK will also continue to work with regulators and other industry stakeholders to facilitate trade.



ABSA PLC LTD HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

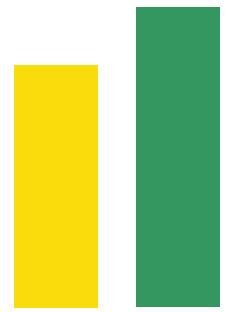


FPEAK continues to seek strategic partnership with institutions that are keen to see the growth of fresh produce in the country.

FPEAK was part of the Agri Horti Sector Forum at the Villa Rosa Kempinski Hotel on 19th April 2023 to discuss the fresh produce exporters operating environment, emerging issues and relevant solutions for the industry in partnership with Absa PLC Kenya Ltd.

The key highlights of the discussions included:

- Forex environment and risk management solutions
- The role of financial institutions in Agri-finance



MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

In the continuous effort to represent members' interests with Government, FPEAK CEO Mr. Hosea Machuki led a team from the Horticulture industry to meet with CS Agriculture and Livestock Development Hon Mithika Linturi and PS State Department for Crop Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Hon PS Kello Harsama on 26th April 2023 to discuss key challenges facing the horticulture subsector.

From the meeting, the CS, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development committed to look into the challenges highlighted once he consults his cabinet colleagues. The issues included;

- VAT refunds.
- Promotion of fresh produce in the international markets.
- HCD levy & County levy.
- Special Economic Zones
- Regulation and control for standards
- Fast track for export documentation and downtime for ICMS and related systems.

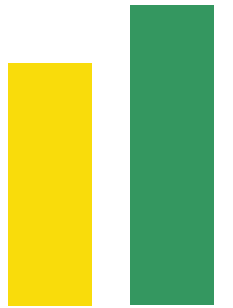
FPEAK will continue engaging with the government and represent its member's interests in various forums.



FPEAK CEO, Mr. Hosea Machuki, and other stakeholders follow proceedings during the meeting



SENATE COMMITTEE MEETING ON DELEGATED LEGISLATIONS



In the continuous efforts to represent members' interests with the legislature, FPEAK has been part of the private sector partners that have had sittings with the Senate Committee on Delegated legislation.

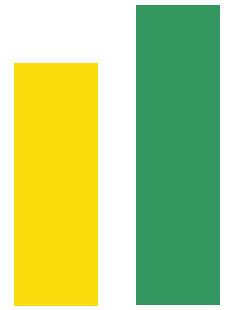
The objective of the series of meetings was to discuss the impact of the Water Resources Regulations 2021 on the agriculture sector. The regulations have set the water use fees for irrigation, domestic water, public water supplies and livestock use. The implementation of this regulation is detrimental for the agriculture sector as a whole owing to the increased cost of doing business for farmers who irrigate their lands and livestock farmers.

The water use rates as set in the regulations are an increase by 1000% for Domestic, Public water supply and for Livestock watering. It is also a 320% increment on water for irrigation.

FPEAK will keep engaging the legislature and other stakeholders to seek review of the Water Regulations 2021.



Private sector stakeholders pose for a group photo with the Senate Committee on Delegated regulations during the meeting



LAUNCH OF BEANS & PEAS IN PODS AND AVOCADO GOOD PRACTICE GUIDES

FPEAK continues to work with development partners to build the capacity of FPEAK members on production of quality products for trade. For this reason, FPEAK was part of the technical working groups which developed the Good Practice Guides for Beans & Peas in Pods and Avocado. The two GPGs which were launched on 3rd May 2023 at Mercure Hotel, Nairobi, are supposed to help Kenya to maintain their market share of the two value chains in the EU and UK.

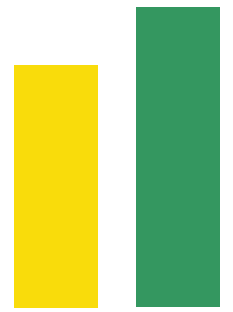
Exporters are expected to use the two documents to ensure that they are using good practices on both National and International Market Requirements. The process was supported by COLEAD through the NEXt Kenya program. The process of rolling out the Good Practice Guides has already been initiated and FPEAK will keep you posted on the same.

You can get the Good Practice Guides on:

- Beans & Peas in pods <https://tinyurl.com/4udvthhw>
- Avocado <https://tinyurl.com/4tp8347s>



FPEAK CEO, Mr. Hosea Machuki, far right, and COLEAD's Delegate General, Mr. Jeremy Knops, far left, pose with the Good Practice Guides



PESTICIDES RISK CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Pesticides use is a key challenge in the horticulture subsector. FPEAK was one of the stakeholders that attended a stakeholders consultative meeting on 8th May 2023 at Radisson Blu Arboretum to deliberate on ways of working together to promote the safe use and mitigate risks associated with pest control products.

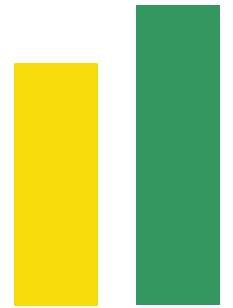
The meeting was organized by Agrochemicals Association of Kenya and the state department of Public Health and Professional Standards. The meeting highlighted sustainable strategies put forth by the industry and government to avert risks and thus ensure safe use of pest control products for public health and food safety.



FPEAK's membership and Advocacy Officer, Ms. Sophie Simiyu, gives remarks during the meeting



Participants follow proceedings during the meeting

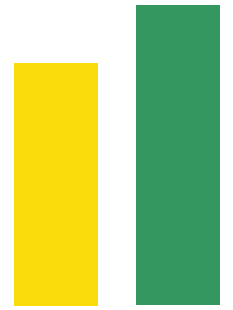


JKIA BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

The JKIA Beautification Project, which is being carried out in collaboration with FPEAK, was formally launched on 10th May 2023 at JKIA. FPEAK joined the Kenya Airports Authority, airport workers, and stakeholders for a tree planting ceremony. In attendance, was KAA MD Alex Gitari and Chairman Caleb Kositany.

The goal of the JKIA beautification project is to make the airport look and feel better while also raising awareness of the flower industry, which is an important part of Kenya's economy and JKIA's cargo export business. FPEAK appreciates FPEAK members, East Africa Growers and Royal FloraHolland who participated in the project and pioneers for the initiative. More FPEAK members will be brought on board in the initiative of "Adopt a Ground".





LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP) ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

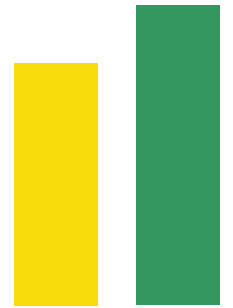
As a key stakeholder in the horticulture industry, FPEAK was invited to the Launch of the NAP on the 12th of May, 2023, held at the Panari Hotel. The event was organized by the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice (DoJ) together with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR).

The meeting brought together state and private sector players to appreciate a key milestone of the Kenyan government, which is the second country in Africa to draft a NAP on Business and Human Rights. FPEAK encourages members to ensure that Rights of workers are not violated at work premises.

MARKUP BENCHMARKING MISSION TO BURUNDI

As a project partner, FPEAK was part of the organizations that participated in the benchmarking mission for MARKUP in Burundi on 14th to 20th May 2023. The benchmarking activity was the last to be conducted after successful visits to Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda.

The EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Program was a 5-year project that aimed at enhancing market access of coffee, cocoa, tea, spices, avocado and other horticultural products from 5 EAC Partner States to the EU, the region and globally. Implementation of MARKUP comprised a matrix of priority value chains, implementing agencies and strategies all aimed at achieving this objective. In order to maximize the benefits of this multiplicity of approaches, the Regional Steering Committee endorsed benchmarking missions of respective NSCs to provide an opportunity for learning and experience sharing on achievements, lessons and challenges in specific value chains and or thematic areas.



AIR TO SEA FREIGHT TRANSITION

As the horticulture industry looks to shift 50% of products in the next 10 years from air freight to sea freight, on 17th and 18th May 2023, FPEAK's Board of Directors and CEO participated in the launch of the "transition from air to sea freight development activities at the Port of Mombasa".

During the launch, a working group was constituted from both the private and public sectors to develop a masterplan for the transition. The event was graced by the CS, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, Hon. Salim Mvurya, County Government of Mombasa, Hon. Abdullswamad Sheriff Nassir, Lamu County Governor, Hon. Issa Timamy, Ambassadors from the EU, Netherlands and Denmark, Staff of Trade Mark Africa, representatives of grower/exporters, key government agencies (KPA, Kenya Railways, KEPHIS, HCD) and other stakeholders. The transition will enable Kenyan growers/exporters enhance their competitive advantage in the international market.

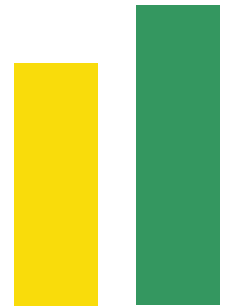
This activity was supported by Trade Mark Africa.



FPEAK CEO and the Board of Directors pose for a group photo during the launch



FPEAK CEO and other stakeholders follow proceedings during the launch



MANAGEMENT OF SCALY INSECTS IN KENYA, UGANDA AND BURUNDI

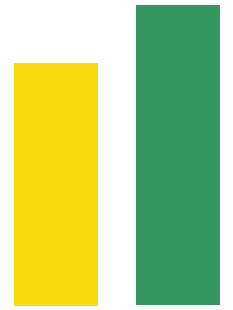
FPEAK with Partner with CABI, KEPHIS and Other stakeholders to implement a 3-year project seeking to improve market access for pawpaw, mango, avocado and citrus fruits by managing invasive scale insects in Eastern Africa, particularly Kenya, Uganda and Burundi.

The project will seek to increase compliance with SPS requirements for the targeted fruits through improved surveillance and management of scale insect pests. The target insects include; false yellow scale, snout scale and black parlatoria. The trade in these fruits within the EAC region, EU and China at the import and export levels has been on the increase lately but its success is dependent on tackling a range of crop pests and diseases.

Regional pest risks to production and trade include scale insects that are not only damaging to crops but also plant host species.



Stakeholders pose for a group photo during the launch of the project.



KENYA-EU ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Kenya - EU Economic Partnership Agreement is a trade agreement between Kenya and the European Union. The EPA aims to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two parties by providing preferential access to each other's markets and establishing a framework for dialogue and cooperation on various trade related issues.

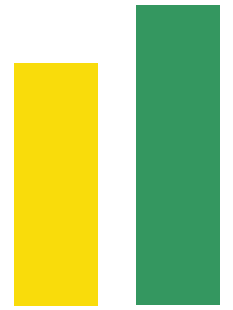
More information on the EPA can be found here; https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/key-elements-eu-kenya-economic-partnership-agreement-2023-06-19_en#:~:text=The%20EU%20is%20Kenya's%20second,vegetables%2C%20fruits%2C%20and%20flowers

TRAINING OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS ON THE MECHANISMS FOR REPORTING OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS (NTBS) AS PER THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) ELIMINATION OF NTBS ACT

FPEAK participated in a half- day training on the mechanisms for reporting of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) as per The EAC Elimination of NTBs Act organized by the Ministry of EAC & Regional development on, 30 June 2023 at the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton, Hurlingham.

The training that was sponsored by TRADEMARK Africa and facilitated by the EAC Secretariat, focused on building an understanding of the private sector players on how to reports NTBs. The training brought together key players in the trade sector including cross-border traders' representatives and organizations, transports associations, business member associations among others.

FPEAK will continue to engage with the Ministry of EAC and Regional Development to facilitate smooth movement of horticultural produce within the EAC region.



RECLAIM SUSTAINABILITY! MID PROJECT LEARNING AND REFLECTION WORKSHOP

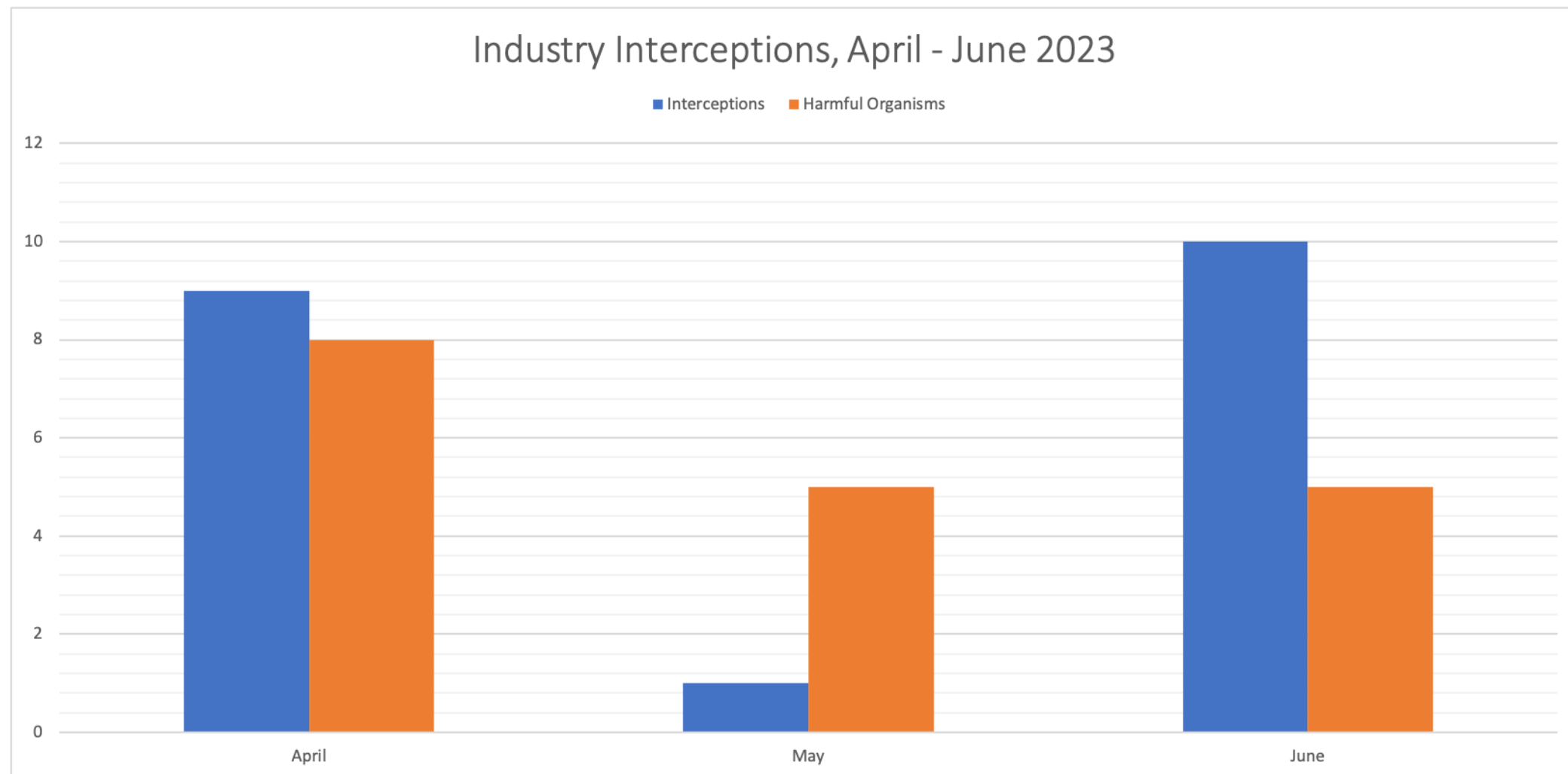
FPEAK, an implementing partner in the Reclaim Sustainability! Fresh foods products program supported by Solidaridad East and Central Africa, took part in a Learning and Reflection workshop at Hotel Africana in Kampala, Uganda on 22nd June 2023.

The program aims to equip farmers and workers (both male and female) with the tools and capacity to convene, consult, connect, create and co-create innovative solutions, along the program's 3 impact pathways;

- Advocate through inclusive dialog
- Accelerate disruptive innovations
- Amplify the voices of the citizenry.



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 |



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