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NEWSLETTER **ISSUE 024**



1ST QUARTER ACTIVITIES | JANUARY - MARCH 2024

This newsletter presents activities and events that FPEAK was involved in for the months of January, February & March 2024..



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CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH PS FOR STATE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY IN THE MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE, AND INDUSTRY (MITI)

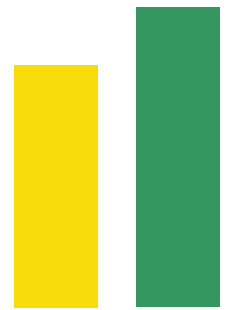
FPEAK Board of Directors, led by Mr. Robert Kotut as Board Chair, convened a highly constructive consultative session with the PS for Industry, Dr. Juma Mukwana on January 18th, 2024. The meeting took place at the confines of his office, nestled on the 23rd floor of the NSSF building.

Accompanying Mr. Kotut were notable board members, including the Vice Chair, Mrs. Leah Sonkoi Meja, the Finance Director, Mr. Dennis Mwirigi, Board Member, Mr. Edwin Gakonyo, and the CEO, Mr. Hosea Machuki, each bringing their wealth of expertise and insights to the table.

During this significant meeting, the FPEAK board seized the opportunity to apprise the PS on the prevailing landscape of the horticulture industry in Kenya, delving into a comprehensive discourse on a myriad of pertinent topics. These included the intricate challenges surrounding packaging, the protracted delays in VAT refunds, the imperative conversion of export processing sites into EPZ status, the pivotal promotion of investments tailored for local stakeholders, and the pivotal status update on the KIEP 250+ programme, among other pressing matters of mutual concern.



FPEAK Board of Directors and CEO pose for a group photo during the meeting at NSSF Building on 18th January



CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON EXPORTATION OF CAPSICUM



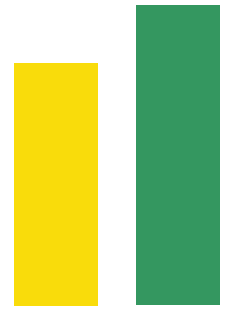
Participants pose for a group photo during the consultative meeting of exporters of capsicum at Juma Lugogo Inspection Centre, JKIA, on 25th January 2024.

FPEAK was part of a consultative meeting with exporters of capsicum and Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) at Juma Lugogo Inspection Service, JKIA, 25th January 2024.

During the meeting, a presentation on the UK Regulation on Capsicum, an overview of interception trends, and the status of interceptions and Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) detections for 2023 was made. Additionally, there was a presentation on the establishment of a pest-free area and the approval process for exporting capsicum to the UK and EU, adhering to the protocol.

Furthermore, discussions included addressing the challenge of False Codling Moth (FCM), a significant concern for capsicum growers and a key contributor to interceptions.

The session aimed to inform participants about the UK Capsicum regulation, offering practical tips on crucial aspects such as creating and maintaining buffer zones, managing FCM, and maintaining records to facilitate the acquisition of KEPHIS licenses.



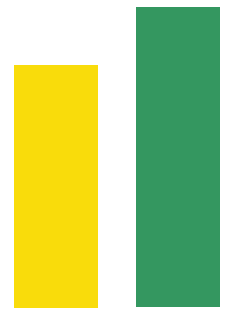
FPEAK MEMBERS' BREAKFAST MEETING

The first quarter breakfast meeting organized by FPEAK was held at Eka Hotel on Mombasa Road, specifically on the 28th of February 2024. It was a successful event where NCBA Bank, a strategic partner of FPEAK, showcased their specialized financial solutions tailored for horticulture exporters. Additionally, Eco Agriven Ltd., another FPEAK member, delivered a presentation on their flagship product, Agri Power, an innovative organic foliar fertilizer known for its ability to boost agricultural production.

FPEAK is committed to maintaining such networking platforms and will continue to engage its members in similar events, encouraging active participation from all members.



FPEAK members follow proceedings during FPEAK members' breakfast meeting held at EKA Hotel on 28th February 2024.



TAILOR MADE TRAINING PLUS (TMT+) QUALITY CONTROL TRAINING

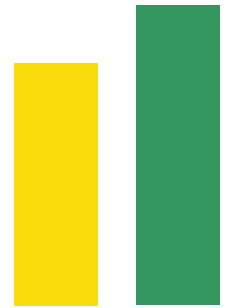
FPEAK is partnering with Q-Point BV and Kenya School of Agriculture (KSA) to implement the NUFFIC funded Tailor-Made Training Plus (TMT+) project. TMT+ aims to conduct tailor made training sessions targeting small holder farmers, technical staff of FPEAK members and other industry stakeholders.

Led by Feline Heussen and Yvette Schraivesande facilitate a 4-day training from 23rd to 26th January 2024 on Quality control at Dairy Training Institute (DTI), Naivasha. The training focused on 'Product Quality Along the Beans Value Chain', participants delved into French beans, Snow Peas, and Sugar Snaps quality standards, guided by the UNECE standard. The training session included a visit to an FPEAK member, VegPro Group Ltd's farm, Gorge Farm, Naivasha.

The visit to Gorge Farm provided firsthand insights into quality management, with emphasis on utilizing all senses during inspections. Discussions culminated in drafting comprehensive Quality Control reports, highlighting solutions to address rejected beans and minimize food waste.



Participants in a group exercise during the Quality Control training on 23rd to 26th January 2024 at DTI, Naivasha.

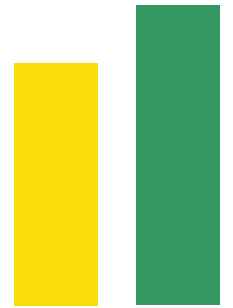


BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING

FPEAK participated in a Business and Entrepreneurship training at Kenya School of Government, Lower Kabete campus, on Business and Entrepreneurship in the horticulture sector. The training took place on 25th to 28th March 2024. The training included FPEAK members, lead farmers attached to groups that have been contracted by FPEAK members. The training focused on business management and organizational matters as well having the right personnel in running a successful business, how to penetrate the market, analysing the market and formulate a market penetration plan, cost and revenue calculation and determining whether your business idea could be successful.



Participants during a brainstorming session at the training that took place at Kenya School of Government, Lower Kabete campus on 25th to 28th March 2024.



LOSS TO VALUE (L2V) – RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT WORKSHOP

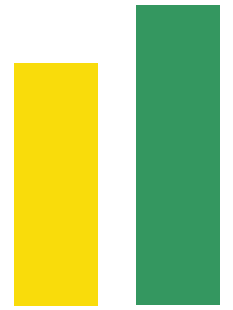
FPEAK is partnering with DanChurchAid to implement the Loss to Value (L2V) project. Through the project, FPEAK organized a workshop on Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) at Crowne Plaza, JKIA, on 22nd January 2024. During the workshop, there were discussions on fostering sustainable practices within the horticulture value chain, gaining valuable insights and tools.

From exploring financial investment opportunities to addressing legal and ethical considerations, the workshop provided essential guidance for businesses to identify, prevent, and mitigate human rights risks.

With DCA's support, FPEAK is dedicated to equipping its members with the knowledge and resources needed to promote responsible and competitive practices.



Participants follow proceedings during the Responsible Business Conduct workshop at Crowne Plaza JKIA on 22nd February 2024.



BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT & EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (BEEEP)

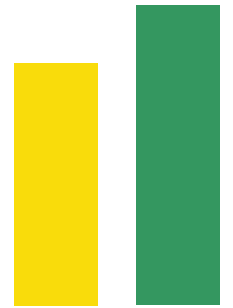
TradeMark Africa (TMA) through support from the EU, is supporting the horticulture industry through the Business Environment and Export Enhancement Programme (BEEEP). The programme is looking to influence high level policies which will help create a favourable business environment for FPEAK members and the horticulture subsector in Kenya.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY AGENDA

The National Horticulture Taskforce (NHT) has overseen the development of a draft National Advocacy Agenda for the horticulture sector. Representatives of the NHT held validation workshops targeting growers and exporters of fresh produce in different regions in the country. So far, meetings have been held in Naivasha, on 21st February 2024 at Lake Naivasha Resort, in Mombasa at Reef Hotel on 7th March 2024. Similar stakeholders' validation workshops will be held across the different regions in Kenya. FPEAK members and other stakeholders in the fresh produce are encouraged to actively participate in this exercise when called upon.



Participants pose for a photo during the stakeholders' validation workshop held in Mombasa County at Reef Hotel on 7th March 2024 & at Lake Naivasha Resort on 21st February 2024.



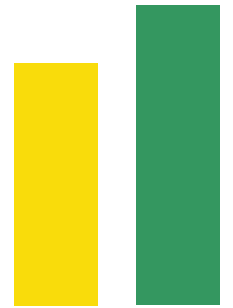
Agrodealer Training

Another component of BEEEP is training of Agro dealers in selected counties that involved in production of export horticultural crops. Agrodealers were trained on current trends in the area of pesticides use, international pesticide trends, consumer safety as well as national and regional regulations for pesticide use. The training sessions were conducted in Kirinyaga, Meru, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Kakamega, Kajiado, Taita Taveta and Nyandarua counties.

The training sessions were conducted in collaboration with PCPB and aakGROW aimed at improving and increasing compliance to National and International regulations of Agrovets, market requirements and safe use of agrochemicals in Kenya.



Participants pose for a group photo during the training



Public Private Dialogue Platforms

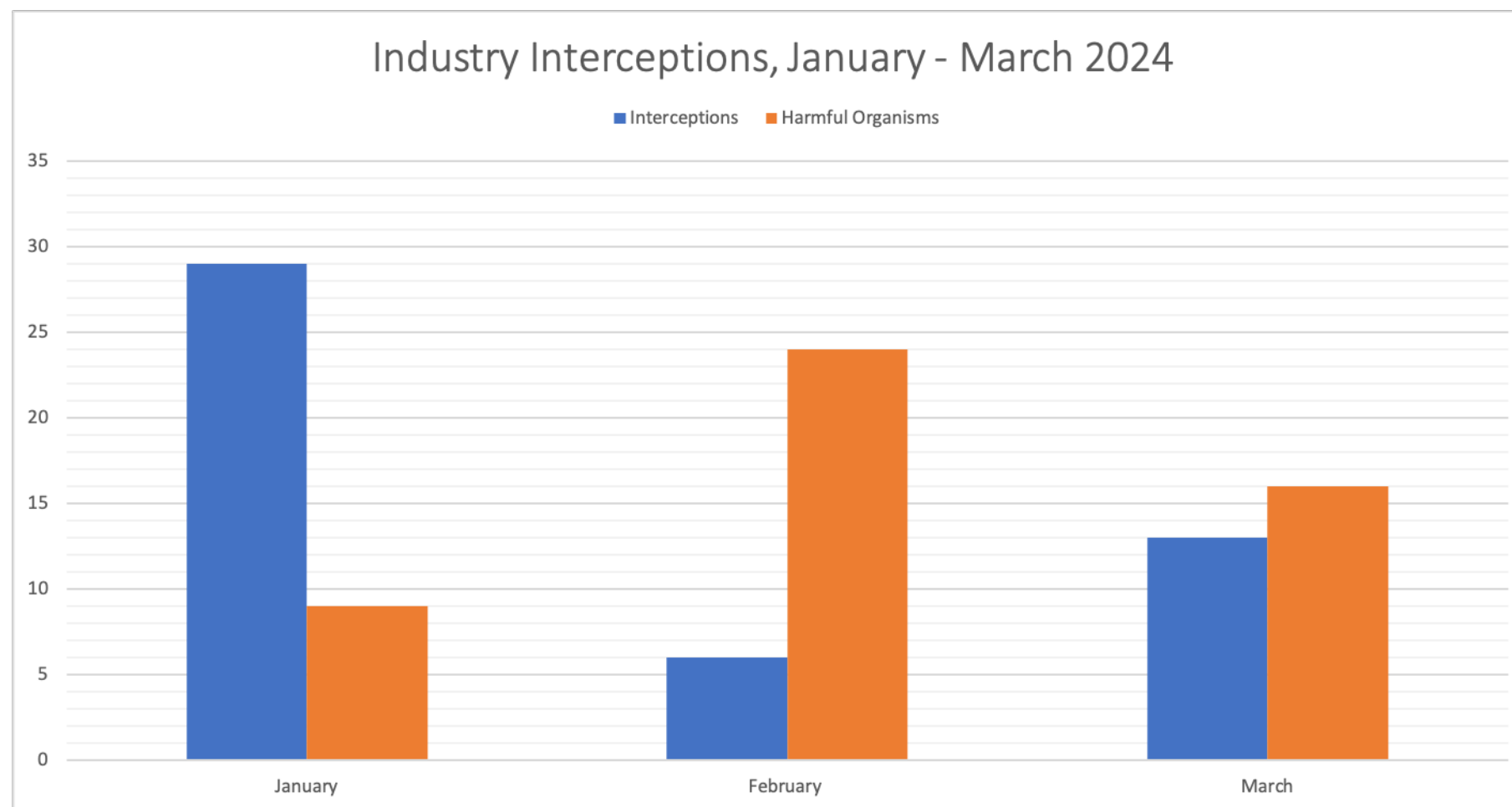
The NHT met with Uasin Gishu County's Departments of Agriculture, Trade, Environment, and Youth, among others to establish a framework for mutual collaboration and boost investment in the horticulture sector in the county. The initiative was a significant step towards fostering agricultural collaboration and promotion of investment in the horticulture sector. County Chief Officer for Agriculture, Mr. Elphas Kesio, led the Department in the discussion on Thursday, emphasizing the vital role of horticulture and underlining the need to involve the youth and women in agriculture.

He highlighted the shift from mono-farming to mixed farming as a strategic approach to enhance agricultural sustainability. He also highlighted climate-smart agriculture as a key component of future farming practices.



Participants pose for a group photo during the consultative meeting held at Boma Inn Hotel, Eldoret on 14th March 2024

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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