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NEWSLETTER **ISSUE 025**



2ND QUARTER ACTIVITIES | APRIL - JUNE 2024

This newsletter presents activities and events that FPEAK was involved in for the months of April, May & June 2024..



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ETIMS Intergration meeting

BEEEP Programme

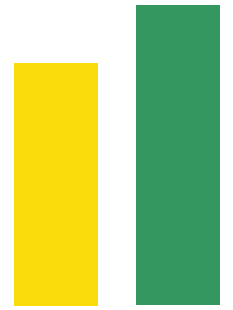
Tailor Made Training Plus

China International Import Expo (CIIE)

FPEAK Annual General Meeting

Q-Pont Trainings

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FPEAK HOSTS MEMBER CONSULTATION ON ETIMS INTEGRATION

On 16th April 2024, FPEAK held a members consultation meeting at Crowne Plaza JKIA to address the integration of smallholder farmers into the Kenya Revenue Authority's (KRA) Electronic Tax Invoice Management System (eTIMS). The session, led by KRA officials, guided members through the onboarding process to the eTIMS platform, focusing on the benefits of compliance and streamlined tax documentation for the horticulture sector.

During the meeting, FPEAK members shared feedback on the platform and highlighted challenges that smallholder farmers face, including digital literacy and access to necessary technology. KRA officials acknowledged these concerns and committed to conducting awareness sessions tailored to smallholder farmers, aiming to simplify their transition to the eTIMS platform.

FPEAK assured members that it will continue engaging with KRA to ensure the smooth integration of smallholder farmers without disrupting operations. Members are encouraged to stay informed through regular updates from FPEAK as the initiative progresses.



FPEAK members follow proceedings during the meeting at Crowne Plaza JKIA on 16th April 2024

FPEAK AND STANBIC BANK PREPARE FOR THE 7TH CHINA INTERNATIONAL IMPORT EXPO (CIIE)



On 22nd April 2024, FPEAK participated in a Panel Discussion hosted by Stanbic Bank Kenya at their Nairobi headquarters, in preparation for the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE). The Expo, scheduled to take place in Shanghai from 5th to 10th November 2024, is a vital platform for expanding Kenya's exports to China.

During the session, key insights and experiences about the Expo were shared by representatives from the CIIE Bureau and the Economic and Commercial Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Kenya. Discussions highlighted the immense potential for Kenya's horticultural products in the Chinese market.

FPEAK, in partnership with Stanbic Bank, remains dedicated to strengthening global collaborations and advancing the entry of Kenya's horticultural products into new markets.



Delegates Pose for a group photo during the meeting at Stanbic Bank Headquarters on 22nd April 2024



ONGOING PROJECTS

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.

BEEEP Steering Committee Meeting

The Steering Committee of the EU funded Business Environment and Export Enhancement Programme (BEEEP) held a meeting on 7th May 2024 at TradeMark Africa (TMA) offices in Nairobi. In attendance, there was the Principal Secretary for Trade, Alfred Ombudo K'Ombudo, representatives from the EU Delegation to Kenya, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kenya, TradeMark Africa, FPEAK among others. During the meeting, the steering committee reviewed progress in the programme's inaugural year, focusing on green economic growth and job creation through increased exports. Now in its second year, BEEEP aims to streamline logistics, enhance competitiveness in key value chains, and expand market reach, with a strong focus on sustainability and inclusive growth.

Updates included advancements in:

- **Export Supply Hubs Development:** Exploring optimal locations in select counties to maximize local production capacities and integrate with production zones.
- **Business Process Review:** Enhancing the business environment through the implementation of the World Bank's Business Ready (B-Ready) report, fostering collaboration across relevant ministries and agencies to develop a reform action plan.
- **Addressing Non-Tariff Barriers:** Identifying and proposing frameworks to tackle export barriers in key markets, facilitating smoother trade processes for Kenyan fruits and vegetables.

FPEAK continues to represent the interests of members and the horticulture industry in this programme.



ONGOING PROJECTS



FPEAK CEO, Mr. Hosea Machuki, second on the right, gives remarks during the steering committee meeting held at TMA offices on 7th May 2024



Members of BEEEP steering committee follow proceedings during the meeting at TMA offices on 7th May 2024

Loss To Value (L2V) Creation Project

Capacity building is one of FPEAK's objective and this is being achieved through the Loss to Value (L2V) Creation project which is supported by DanChurchAid through the Danida Green Business Partnership (DGBP). FPEAK conducted capacity building sessions to beneficiary farmers from Nyandarua and Nakuru counties producing peas and beans in pods. The two-day sessions held on 6th and 7th May 2024 at Njabini ATC, Nyandarua County and 9th and 10th May 2024 at ATC Nakuru, Nakuru County. The farmers were trained on Good Agricultural Practices and how to achieve and maintain quality aspects so as to access the export market.

Further capacity building sessions will be undertaken in future as FPEAK looks to empower farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to improve their livelihoods.



ONGOING PROJECTS



Farmer representatives pose for a group photo during the training on 9th and 10th May 2024 at ATC Nakuru.



Farmer representatives follow a session during the training at Njabini ATC on 6th and 7th May 2024

Food Safety Management Systems Training

FPEAK partnered Q-Point BV through the 'Market-driven training programs for the horticultural sector' supported by NUFFIC organized a training session Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) on 4th to 7th June 2024 at Kenya School of Government, Nairobi.

Participants, including FPEAK members and staff from Kenya School of Agriculture (KSA), were trained on the significance of implementing a robust FSMS to ensure the quality and safety of fresh fruits and vegetables. During the training, the participants visited FPEAK member, Six Square Ltd Packhouse provided further insight on implementation of FSMS in their production and packaging areas.



ONGOING PROJECTS



Participants pose for a group photo at Six Square Ltd Premises on 7th June 2024



Participants follow proceedings during the FSMS training at KSG Nairobi on 4th to 7th June 2024

TRAINING ON FLOWER QUALITY

FPEAK and Q-point collaborated held a training session on Flower Quality, KS 1758 awareness, and FCM management. The training took place on 25th to 28th June 2024 at Lakeview Tourist Lodge in Naivasha. The goal of the training was to equip FPEAK members with skills to enhance flower quality, emphasizing the crucial role of quality management in sustainable production. Addressing FCM, a quarantine pest affecting the industry, the training provided insights on improving management from production sites to packhouses.

During the training, participants visited Shalimar Flower farm, an East Africa Growers flower farm and FPEAK member, offering practical sessions on scaling operations with a focus on quality management in greenhouses and packhouses.



ONGOING PROJECTS



Participants pose for group photo during the training at Lakeview Tourist Lodge, Naivasha



Participants during the visit to Shalimar Flowers on 27th June 2024



Participants being taken through a session at Shalimar Flowers on 27th June 2024



FPEAK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

FPEAK held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 24th May 2024 at Eka Hotel, Nairobi. The meeting addressed several critical issues affecting the horticulture subsector. A key topic was the notable rise in notifications based on documentation in 2023, despite a decrease in interceptions related to harmful organisms and Maximum Residue Level (MRL) detections compared to 2022.

One pressing concern is the new 25% sampling requirement for False Codling Moth on roses, effective from 1st May 2024, which has created significant challenges for growers, increasing the risk of interceptions and necessitating greater vigilance.

Climate change was also discussed, with extreme weather events disrupting agricultural planning, altering crop and pest cycles, and leading to biodiversity loss. This has highlighted the urgent need for adopting climate-smart technologies to mitigate these challenges.

Additionally, rising business costs due to high input, freight, and marketing expenses, coupled with increased regulatory and logistical hurdles, are diminishing Kenya's global trade competitiveness. The ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict has further strained sea transport, leading to greater reliance on costlier air transport for perishables.

New taxation measures, such as those in the Finance Bill 2024, and the introduction of e-TIMS and UCR application fees, were also flagged as adding financial burdens for exporters. To address these concerns, FPEAK is preparing a memorandum to present to parliament, with input from its members.

FPEAK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024



Mr. Robert Kotut, FPEAK Board of Directors Chair, gives remarks during the FPEAK Members AGM on 27th May 2024 at EKA Hotel, Nairobi.

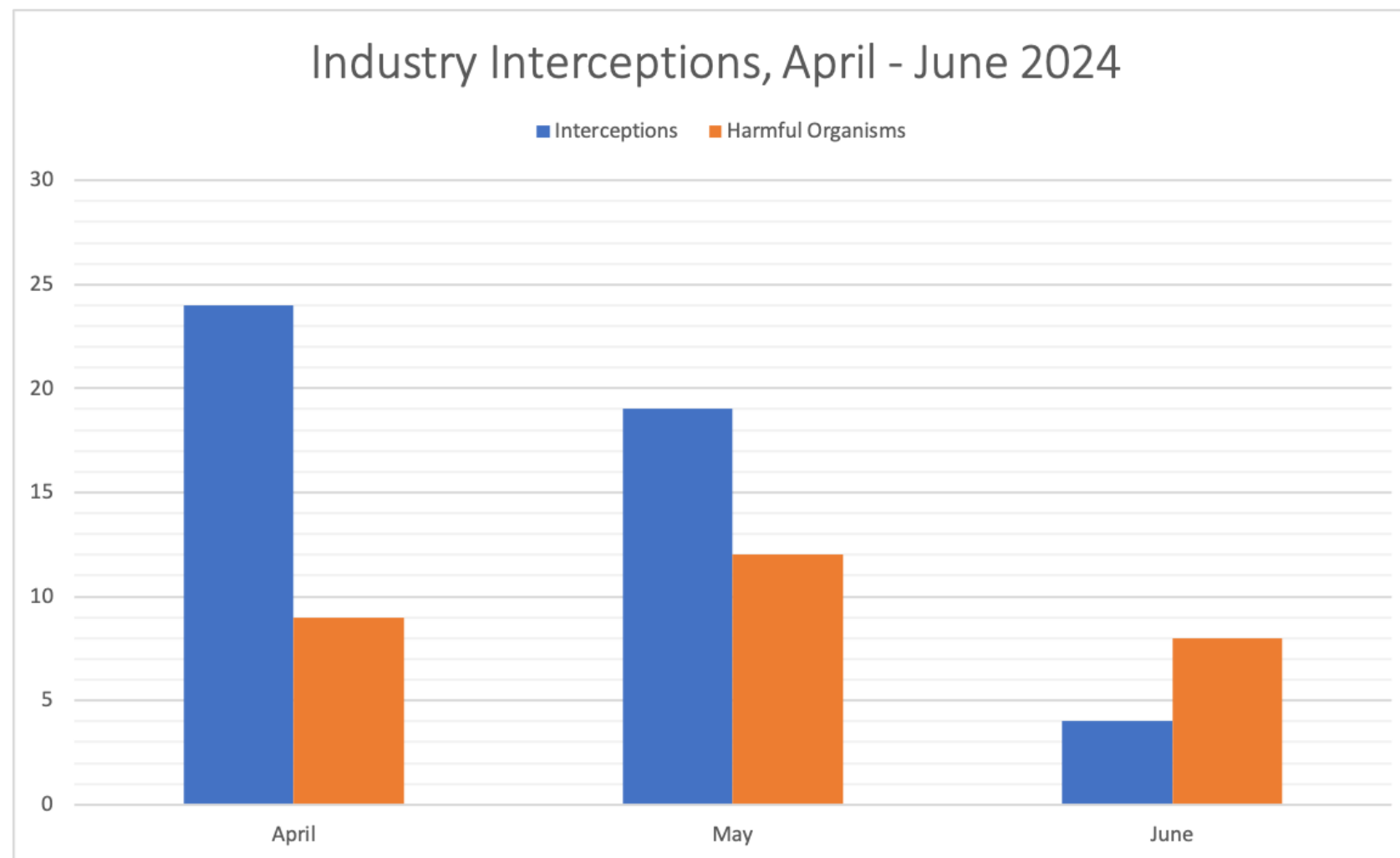


FPEAK Members follow proceedings during the AGM on 27th May 2024 at EKA Hotel, Nairobi.



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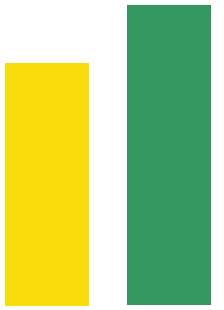
INDUSTRY STATISTICS



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 |

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/europhyt/interceptions_en



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