

**Beneficiary**

Flower producers in Uganda

Led by

CABI and the Department of Crop Protection in Uganda and UFEA

Time-frame

October 2012 – March 2015

STDF funding

US\$383,495 (total project value US\$427,017)

STRONGER PHYTOSANITARY CONTROLS HELP UGANDA'S FLOWER EXPORTS TO GROW

The safe trade gap

Flower producers in Uganda faced heavy losses with the growing interception of cut flower exports to the EU. Costs rose with increased inspections, treatment and rejected consignments. In turn, investment in the sector was slowing, which was impacting on trade flows and economic growth. The problem – plant pests. The solution – getting the right tools and knowledge on phytosanitary measures in place to keep the flower supply chain safe. At the same time this would help to safeguard the livelihoods of the country's 6,000 flower workers, 80% of them women, and their families.

Partnership approach

Flower producers and exporters came together with the Department of Crop Protection (DCP) in Uganda to build capacity to meet international phytosanitary standards and EU requirements. A strong public-private partnership between the DCP and the Uganda Flower Exporters Association (UFEA) was created based on joint dialogue and planning. Efforts were made to raise awareness and gain buy-in from national decision-makers. With technical expertise from CABI and other partners, hands-on practical training and study tours were rolled out for the public and private sector. Government teams were deployed to boost efficiency of inspections and certification at exit points and an electronic format for export certification and accessible reference materials were developed.

Results

- Numbers of interceptions on roses due to plant pests fell from 34 in 2013 to 18 in 2014 and to less than five in 2015 and continued to fall in 2016. The livelihoods of the majority women workers dependent on the flower industry stand to benefit as exports to the EU continue.
- Over 100 scouts across the flower sector and 10 inspectors have been trained by the Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence (COPE). Inspectors and industry showed high levels of knowledge on international phytosanitary standards and EU legislation to meet EU market demands.
- A streamlined inspection and export certification system was set up, together with a surveillance, monitoring and traceability system. A manual with 12 Standard Operating Procedures was developed with operations linked to the Plant Protection and Health Act 2015.

Sustaining impact

- An evaluation in 2015 found that thanks to the project there was “improved compliance with international phytosanitary standards for production and export of flowers for the European market”. “Awareness on the relevant phytosanitary issues in relation to the export to the EU has increased significantly” and, at the same time, “the response of the cut flower sector on the survey and monitoring program reached a very reactive and responsive level”.
- Flower farms have also set up a self-regulating system on monitoring and surveillance, with disincentives for non-compliance, managed by a Task Team of government and industry.
- The DCP and UFEA have since signed a new public-private partnership to sustain their collaboration and increase flower production and exports.

“The use of biological agents improves the health and safety of women who work in the greenhouse by reducing exposure to pesticides and its health risks. Of the 8,500 direct workers in the flower sector, 80% are women who have an income for their families”.

Esther Nekambi,
UFEA

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