

Partnering to improve Tanzania's SPS capacity in the horticultural sector

Timeframe: 2020 to date

KEY STORY



LED BY

PUBLIC SECTOR

Ministry of Agriculture of Tanzania
Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides
Authority (TPHPA)

PRIVATE SECTOR

Tanzania Horticulture Association
(TAHA)
GreenCert Limited



GOVERNANCE

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Agriculture and TAHA sets out the legal basis for this partnership and defines the roles and responsibilities of the parties. Based on this MoU, the Ministry of Agriculture endeavours to delegate responsibility for selected plant health inspection services to GreenCert, established as a subsidiary company under TAHA.

FUNDING

The Ministry of Agriculture and TAHA co-fund activities to support TPHPA to deliver on its mandate. GreenCert charges a user fee for its plant health inspection services, paid by individual farmers and farmer organizations. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture has provisions to delegate inspectorate services to GreenCert, where necessary.



PURPOSE

Horticultural products are a vital source of income for smallholder farmers and exporters in Tanzania. Lack of capacity to meet food safety and quality requirements, combined with weak monitoring and surveillance systems along the value chain, affect horticultural exports to regional and international markets. This partnership, between the Ministry of Agriculture (through the newly established TPHPA) and TAHA, aims to improve Tanzania's capacity to comply with SPS requirements to facilitate safe trade.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PUBLIC SECTOR

- Encourage farmers, farmer groups, small businesses and exporters to seek GreenCert certification for regulatory and market access purposes.
- Keep GreenCert informed of changes and developments in government policies and intergovernmental discussions concerning certification.
- Support TPHPA to develop authorization guidelines for third-party inspections to complement official inspections.
- Improve the institutional and regulatory framework for conformity assessment services for the horticultural value chain.

PRIVATE SECTOR

- Operate inspection, certification and testing services on food safety and quality requirements, including HACCP and GLOBALG.A.P., in the horticultural sector.
- Contribute to monitoring plans, early warning systems and surveillance of food safety risks and pests, and to addressing compliance challenges.
- Support TPHPA with risk assessment and risk management, and help it to develop a National Pest Surveillance Strategy and Emergency Response Strategy for emerging plant pests, including standard operating procedures, guidelines and actions.
- Carry out periodic third-party audits for conformity assessment and certification, such as ISO 17065, ISO 17021, etc.

LESSONS

- Commercialization of services is expected to improve the quality of inspection and certification services and contribute to long-term sustainability.
- Engagement and commitment from all the parties are key elements to meeting deliverables.
- Main challenges include potential differences in the public and private sector viewpoints on budgetary allocations; setting common priorities based on scarce resources sometimes takes time.

UP-SCALING OPPORTUNITIES

- Experiences and lessons learned from this initiative are likely to interest stakeholders in other countries in the East African Community and/or Southern African Development Community, which face similar challenges to meet food safety and/or phytosanitary requirements for horticultural exports.

RESULTS

THIS PARTNERSHIP INCREASES ACCESS TO IMPROVED INSPECTION, CERTIFICATION AND TESTING SERVICES ON FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY REQUIREMENTS IN THE HORTICULTURAL SECTOR, WHICH ARE ALSO MORE AFFORDABLE FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS. AS A RESULT, FARMERS HAVE IMPROVED THE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF THEIR HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS, OPENING UP OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.



The PPP enabled the public sector to benefit from the private sector's expertise, in a way that supports its mandate and helps to **ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF ITS TECHNICAL, HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES.**



The co-regulatory approach taken **SUPPORTS OFFICIAL OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS AND INCREASES INTERNATIONAL TRUST** in the country's produce safety and quality assessment processes.