

## Ethiopian Netherlands Horticulture Partnership in full swing

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### *Joint commitment*

Horticulture exports from Ethiopia are growing very rapidly and are an important element in the country's efforts to diversify exports and to contribute directly to economic development and poverty reduction. The Netherlands' Government has committed itself to contribute to strengthening the enabling environment of the horticulture sector in Ethiopia through a public-private partnership program. The major Ethiopian stakeholders in the horticultural sector agreed that the partnership is to contribute to:

- A competitive, demand driven, self sustaining and innovative horticulture cluster well connected in international networks;
- Environmentally and socially friendly production;
- Human resource development and enlarging the positive spin-off on local, regional and national social development;
- An institutional framework which enables the sector to meet (future) market demands and opportunities;
- Strengthening the cooperation between Ethiopia and the Netherlands



In close collaboration with the private and public sector organisations directly involved in the horticultural industry a programme of activities in the partnership was drawn.



### *Practical training facility*

The fast growing industry requires a growing supply of staff equipped with relevant and practical technical knowledge. A taskforce, with the assistance of Wageningen UR, formulated a strategic plan for the period 2007 – 2012 to establish sustainable, industry-led and practically oriented capacity building programmes which facilitate the floriculture sector development in Ethiopia. The plan consists of two major elements:

- Immediate start with practical oriented on training programs on pest- en pesticide management, post harvest management and marketing.
- Development and implementation of an integrated long term training and research program for the horticulture sector (2007-2012).

### *Code of Practice for the floriculture sector*

EHPEA together with the government consider a national code of practice as a prerequisite for reinforcing the reputation of Ethiopian flowers on the international market.

Wageningen UR supports the sector in the process to develop such a code of practice with the following activities:

- Collecting information on lessons learned and standards and trends worldwide
- Collecting information on current production and management practices
- Rapid Environmental Appraisal
- Design of CoP aiming at a gradual, effective and voluntary implementation

Key stakeholders in the sector as well as from government and the environmental and labour movements are the active partners, driving the process.

### *Capacity building phytosanitary unit*

Jointly with Ethiopian partners Wageningen UR implemented a review on the phytosanitary standards and systems in the export-oriented horticulture and on the approach and conformity of the pesticide registration system in Ethiopia.



In the coming years a programme will be implemented to strengthen phytosanitary capacities and sector arrangements in

- Export inspection and certification systems
- Phytosanitary monitoring and surveillance

Pesticide registration and control services



### *Integrated Pest Management*

There is high commitment for introducing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Ethiopian rose production. A comprehensive research & development plan has been developed in close cooperation between MoARD, EARI, EHPEA and Wageningen UR.

The programme will support the development and implementation of IPM through applied and on-farm research activities, addressing rules and legislation issues, conducting risk assessments and facilitating knowledge exchange.

### *And more to come.....*

Just recently started are the identification of competitive product-market combinations for fruits and vegetables; support on relevant market information service and research on suitable locations for new floricultural production sites.