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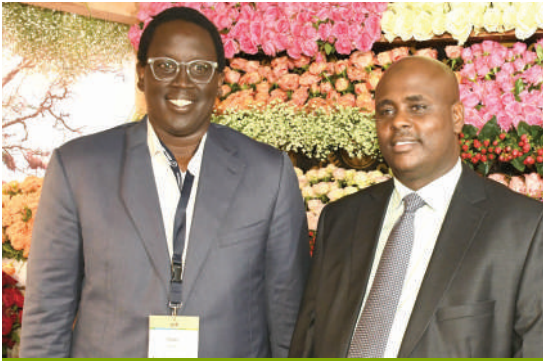
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MANAGING EDITOR

Catherine Riungu

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Anita Nkirote

WRITERS

Andrew Mathenge
Charles Kariuki

CONTRIBUTORS

Nelson Maina- Elgon Kenya
Hamish Ker - Andermatt Kenya
Niels Van Doorn - Chrysal Africa
Pauline Rono - SOCAA
George Omuok

ADVERTISING

Anita Nkirote
Skita Makena

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Alex David

DESIGN

Samuel Irungu

TRAINEES


Dennis Gichuhi
Muriithi Kariuki

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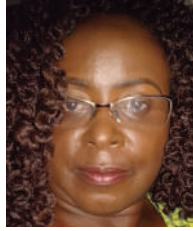
ASSOCIATED GREEN VENTURES

Mwangaza Road, Komarock Phase 2, opposite main gate, Block E. PO Box 1066-00518
Tel: + 254 722-848970, +254 720-884961
hortinewspr@gmail.com
news@hortinews.co.ke

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HORTISPOT



This year's Naivasha Horticultural Fair offers a promising glimpse into the future of small-scale farming in Kenya. The fair showcases cutting-edge technologies and services designed to support farmers in boosting their productivity.

Catherine Riungu

Supporting small-scale farmers: the key to Kenya's food security

In the face of escalating climate challenges and the pressing need for food security, Kenya stands at a crossroads. Small-scale farmers, who contribute an astounding 60 percent of the country's agricultural production, are crucial to our national food system. Supporting these farmers is not only essential for their livelihoods but is also a strategic imperative for achieving sustainable food security across the nation.

Despite their significant contributions, small-scale farmers often face formidable obstacles. Many lack access to affordable soil testing, which is vital for understanding soil health and fertility. Without this knowledge, farmers may struggle to apply fertilizers effectively, leading to suboptimal crop yields. Moreover, advice on soil fertility and crop health is often out of reach, leaving many farmers navigating agricultural practices without the necessary guidance.

Access to irrigation water and technology is another critical area where support is needed. Climate change has led to unpredictable weather patterns, making rain-fed agriculture increasingly unreliable. Small-scale farmers must adopt innovative irrigation solutions to sustain their crops during dry spells. Additionally, access to improved planting materials can significantly enhance crop resilience and yield. These tools can make a tangible difference in a farmer's output and, by extension, the food security of the communities they serve.

This year's Naivasha Horticultural Fair offers a promising glimpse into the future of small-scale farming in Kenya. The fair showcases cutting-edge technologies and services designed to support farmers in boosting their productivity. Attendees will see firsthand how implementing simple, affordable solutions can lead to substantial improvements. Reports from similar initiatives show that with the right support systems, farmers can achieve production increases of up to 40 percent. Such gains not only uplift individual farmers but also strengthen local economies and contribute to national food security.

Investing in small-scale farmers is an investment in the resilience of our agricultural sector. Programs that offer training in agronomy, access to safe post-harvest storage, and guidance on the accurate use of fertilizers can dramatically transform farming outcomes. Moreover, these initiatives can create a ripple effect, benefiting entire communities by enhancing food availability and reducing prices.

The importance of fostering an environment conducive to the success of small-scale farmers cannot be overstated. Collaborative efforts between the government, NGOs, and the private sector are essential to create comprehensive support systems. Policies should prioritize funding for agricultural education, technology access, and infrastructure development. By building a robust support network, we can empower farmers to adapt to climate challenges and market fluctuations.

As we move forward, it is vital to recognize that supporting small-scale farmers is not merely an act of charity; it is a strategic investment in our nation's future. By focusing on these essential players in our agricultural landscape, we can create a more resilient food system capable of withstanding the tests of time and climate.

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Kenya Flower Council leads the charge for sustainable floriculture at IFTEX 2024

The International Floriculture Trade Expo (IFTEX) 2024 opened with an inspiring keynote address from Christopher Kulei, the newly appointed Chairman of the Kenya Flower Council (KFC). As a platform bringing together floriculture industry leaders and stakeholders from across the globe, IFTEX stands as a testament to the growth and innovation within Kenya's floriculture sector. Kulei's speech set the tone for the expo, focusing on the sector's achievements and future potential, especially in the realm of sustainability.



of doubling Kenya's floriculture exports over the next decade. However, realizing this potential hinges on a few crucial factors.

One of the key ingredients for growth is the cooperation between the public and private sectors. The Kenyan government has already prioritized agriculture as a central pillar of its economic strategy, with an emphasis on increasing Kenya's competitiveness in the international market. Kulei stressed the need for a robust partnership between the government and the floriculture sector

Kenya's Flourishing Floriculture Industry

Kenya's floriculture industry has reached a level of maturity and profitability that places it at the forefront of global markets. With approximately 5,000 hectares of land dedicated to flower cultivation, the sector exports over 200,000 tonnes of flowers annually, valued at \$900 million. This contributes significantly to Kenya's economy, accounting for more than 70% of the country's horticultural exports.

The industry's impact extends beyond economic figures, providing direct employment to over 200,000 workers, primarily in rural areas, and indirectly supporting an additional one million people involved in the supply of goods and services. This flourishing sector touches the lives of over four million Kenyans, underscoring its vital role in the country's socio-economic fabric.

Unlocking the Full Potential of Floriculture

Kulei emphasized the incredible potential for growth within Kenya's floriculture industry. With the country's rich soils, advanced technology, and skilled human capital, he envisions the possibility

to spur more investment, increase hectareage, and create more employment opportunities.

"Government regulations play a decisive role in creating stable conditions for businesses to start, operate, and grow," he stated. By streamlining processes, reviewing regulations, and providing incentives for growers and exporters, the government can attract new investors and encourage existing ones, ultimately leading to more jobs, increased foreign exchange income, and solidifying Kenya's position in the global flower trade.

A Focus on Sustainability

The theme of this year's IFTEX is sustainability, a topic that Kulei passionately addressed. He noted that sustainability has evolved from being a peripheral concern to becoming a central pillar of business strategy. Recent unprecedented rains and flooding in Kenya have underscored the importance of sustainable business practices, not only for the industry's growth but also for mitigating the effects of climate change.

"Putting sustainability as a core part of each of our strategies is a must and is quickly becoming



Kenya's floriculture industry has reached a level of maturity and profitability that places it at the forefront of global markets.





Christopher Kulei, Chairman , Kenya Flower Council (KFC) and Dr. Idris Salim Dokota, Principal Secretary - State Department for Cabinet Affairs at IFTEX 2024. Photo / David Alex

a critical consumer expectation and demand,” Kulei asserted. The Kenya Flower Council has taken the lead in promoting sustainability within the industry. Members of the council have made significant investments in reducing and recycling water usage, implementing biological pest management systems, utilizing solar energy, and adopting greener logistics to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to these efforts, KFC members have embraced various carbon measurement tools to accurately assess their emissions and identify areas for improvement. These proactive measures are in line with global trends, where consumers and stakeholders increasingly demand sustainable practices across industries.

Looking Ahead: Partnerships and Innovations

As IFTEX 2024 unfolds, Kulei expressed hope that participants will use the opportunity to explore the latest trends, technologies, and best practices in floriculture. He encouraged attendees to form new partnerships, exchange ideas, and foster innovations that can propel the industry forward.

He also extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, sponsors, exhibitors, and participants whose contributions have been instrumental in shaping the sector and keeping Kenya at the forefront of the global floriculture industry. Kulei concluded with a rallying call to embrace sustainability, not as an option but as a fundamental principle guiding every action within the industry.

IFTEX 2024 serves as a beacon for the future of Kenya’s floriculture sector, highlighting the industry’s achievements while charting a path toward a more sustainable future. With the support of organizations like the Kenya Flower Council and a commitment to environmental stewardship, the sector is poised to continue its growth and maintain its global leadership. As Christopher Kulei aptly summarized, embracing sustainability is not merely a choice; it is an essential part of ensuring the industry’s long-term success and resilience. **Speech by Christopher Kulei, Chairman,** news@hortinews.co.ke

IFTEX 2024 in pictures

Photos / David Alex





IFTEX 2024 in pictures





Kenya's Commitment to Sustainable Floriculture: A Highlight from the 11th International Floriculture Trade Expo

The 11th International Floriculture Trade Expo (IFTEX) opened its doors on June 4th, 2024, at the Oshwal Center in Nairobi, bringing together a vibrant array of industry leaders, exhibitors, and guests from around the world. The event, marked by a 20% increase in exhibitors this year, has drawn representatives from 75 countries, showcasing the global significance and appeal of the floriculture sector. In his opening address, Dr. Idris Salim Dokota, the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Cabinet Affairs, highlighted Kenya's enduring commitment to fostering a sustainable and innovative floriculture industry.

A Blossoming Sector: Kenya's Global Floriculture Leadership

Kenya's floriculture sector has long been celebrated as a hallmark of the country's entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, and resilience. Dr. Dokota acknowledged the industry's remarkable growth, which has not only positioned Kenya as a global leader in floriculture but has also made significant contributions to the national economy. "Our flowers have continued to demonstrate the synergy between nature and human effort," he stated, emphasizing the sector's role in enhancing the livelihoods of over two million Kenyans.

Sustainability at the Core

This year, the expo's theme of "Sustainability" resonates with the government's ongoing initiatives to nurture the floriculture industry. Dr. Dokota outlined several key areas where the government has made strides in supporting sustainable practices within the sector.

Creating a Conducive Business Environment

Agriculture is a cornerstone of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), a government initiative aimed at enhancing



economic growth and development. The government has implemented policies to streamline export processes, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and promote fair trade practices. These efforts are aimed at creating a more conducive environment for businesses within the floriculture value chain, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Infrastructure Enhancement

Efficient logistics are vital for the success of floriculture exports. Recognizing this, the government has invested in modernizing transportation networks, including roads, railways, and airports. This infrastructure development ensures the seamless movement of flowers from farms to international markets, preserving their freshness and quality—a crucial factor in maintaining Kenya's competitive edge in the global market.

Environmental Responsibility

Dr. Dokota underscored that sustainability is more than just a buzzword; it is a shared responsibility. The government actively promotes eco-friendly practices such as integrated pest management, water conservation, and organic fertilization. By encouraging farmers to adopt renewable energy sources and minimize their carbon footprint, the government aims to protect



both the industry and the environment. This approach not only safeguards natural resources but also aligns with the increasing global demand for environmentally responsible products.

Strengthening Trade Partnerships

Kenya's government has been proactive in negotiating favorable trade agreements to open new markets for floriculture exports. The recent Kenya-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, ratified by both the National Assembly of Kenya and the European Union, is a testament to these efforts. Additionally, the suspension of the 8% duty on cut flowers exported to the UK showcases Kenya's success in creating a more favorable trading environment. These partnerships not only eliminate trade barriers but also promote fair pricing, creating a level playing field for Kenyan flowers in the global market.

Legislative Measures for a Sustainable Future

In addition to infrastructural and trade enhancements, the government is taking significant legislative steps to support the floriculture sector. Dr. Dokota highlighted the amendments to the Climate Act, which now establishes a national carbon registry in Kenya and regulates the trade in carbon credits. This initiative ensures transparency and accountability in carbon trading endeavors.

Further strengthening this framework, the government is in the process of enacting the Carbon Credit Trading and Benefit Sharing Bill of 2023. This proposed legislation aims to create a robust regulatory framework for carbon credit trading and benefit-sharing, including the establishment of an authority to oversee these activities and a tribunal to address disputes. This legislation will allow flower farms to generate additional revenue by engaging in carbon credit projects. By adopting sustainable practices and reducing their carbon footprint, these farms can earn carbon credits that can be traded internationally, thus creating a new income stream and enhancing their economic resilience.

A Call to Celebrate and Innovate

As Dr. Dokota officially opened the International Floriculture Trade Expo, he encouraged attendees to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the floriculture industry while committing to its sustainable future. "This expo provides a unique platform for sharing knowledge, forging partnerships, and exploring new opportunities," he remarked.

In closing, he extended his gratitude to HPP, the Kenya Flower Council, and all the exhibitors, participants, and organizers who made the event possible. He urged everyone to explore the exhibits, engage with the growers, and gain insights into the diversity of flowers that Kenya cultivates. His message was clear: sustainability is not just an option, but a necessity for the future success and growth of Kenya's floriculture industry.

The 11th International Floriculture Trade Expo serves as a testament to Kenya's flourishing floriculture sector and its commitment to sustainable growth. Through strategic government support, infrastructural development, and forward-thinking legislation, Kenya is paving the way for a vibrant and sustainable future in the global floriculture industry. As Dr. Dokota aptly concluded, this is not just a celebration of the sector's achievements but also a call to action for a more sustainable and innovative future.

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Understanding and managing the false codling moth in Kenya

Native to sub-Saharan Africa, the False Codling Moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) is a major agricultural pest. While detected in Europe and the United States, it has failed to become established outside its native range.

With a voracious appetite, the Moth's larvae devour a wide variety of crops. These include commercially important plants like citrus, red pepper, bullet chilli, avocado, pomegranate, guava, cotton, and maize. Due to the extensive damage, it causes, the moth poses a significant threat to Kenyan exports. This risk led the European Union (EU) to classify the False Codling Moth as a quarantine pest in 2017. Consequently, European countries now require inspections for 10% of roses imported from Kenya to safeguard against potential infestations.

Thriving in warm climates, this moth struggles when temperatures dip below 10°C. At this point, development slows, and survival rates plummet. Even colder temperatures below 1°C prove fatal for all life stages. Interestingly, infestations can fluctuate in severity from year to year. However, ideal conditions – warm and humid environments – can lead to a remarkable five generations per year.

FCM goes through four distinct stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Under the cloak of night (between 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm), female moths lay their eggs on the surface of fruits. These eggs hatch in 2-22 days, depending on the temperature. The hatched larvae, tiny and hungry, burrow into the fruit flesh, feeding and growing for 12-67 days based on weather conditions. The initial entry point may show some discoloration. After this feeding frenzy, the larva prepares for its next stage by spinning a cocoon in the soil. This cocoon, initially cream-coloured, eventually houses the pupal stage. Finally, a small, brownish-winged adult moth emerges, ready to continue the cycle.



Management

The False Codling Moth poses a serious threat to Kenya's economy. This is because it targets a wide range of valuable crops, including those that are crucial for our export earnings and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). To combat this destructive pest, a multi-pronged approach is necessary. This includes monitoring FCM populations, implementing cultural practices that disrupt their life cycle, utilizing biological controls like natural predators, and applying chemicals judiciously only when necessary.

1. Monitoring & Prevention

Regular Inspections: Keep a watchful eye on your crops and fallen fruit. Look for signs of FCM damage or the presence of the moths themselves. Destroy any infested or damaged fruit promptly to prevent further spread.

“ FCM goes through four distinct stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Under the cloak of night (between 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm), female moths lay their eggs on the surface of fruits



False codling moth damage on pepper (Credit: www.altusfood.com)

within the canopy, you create a less favourable environment for the moths to thrive.

3. Natural enemies (Biological control)

- **Egg Parasitoids:** A natural hero in citrus orchards is the FCM egg parasitoid, *Trichogramma cryptophlebiae*. These tiny wasps lay their eggs inside FCM eggs, effectively stopping the next generation of moths before they hatch. Commercially available releases of *Trichogramma* can significantly boost their numbers and combat infestations. Under ideal conditions, they can parasitize up to 80% of FCM eggs in a citrus orchard.
- **Predators:** Encourage the presence of natural predators like ants and birds in your orchard. These creatures can help keep FCM populations in check by feeding on the eggs and larvae.
- **Insecticides:** While biological controls are ideal, there may be situations where additional measures are necessary. In such cases, consider using biological insecticides approved for FCM control. Remember, consult with a qualified professional to choose the most effective and environmentally responsible option for your specific needs.

Examples of biopesticides include:

- BACIGUARD 16 WDG (Water Dispersible Granules), Reg. No. PCPB(CR)1238, a biological insecticide for controlling FCM in avocados.
- HALT NEO 5% WP (Wettable Powder), Reg. No. PCPB(CR)1959, is an insecticide for controlling FCM in sweet peppers.
- CRYTRACK, Reg. No. PCPB(CR)1860, is rubber impregnated with synthetic female *Cryptophlebia leucotreta* pheromone. It is used for monitoring and mass trapping of FCM in chilli peppers (for use with Delta traps and sticky paper).
- FLOWER DUST, Reg. No. PCPB(CR)2370, is an insecticide for controlling pupal and adult stages of thrips and FCM in roses.

Pheromone Traps:

These clever traps lure male FCM with attractive scents (pheromones). By monitoring the number of trapped moths, you can track population levels and detect infestations early, allowing you to take timely action.

2. Cultural Practices

- **Intercropping & Crop rotation:** Intercropping can be utilized as a push and pull measure to counter FCM. Planting different crops in the same location each season disrupts the FCM's ability to establish itself and find suitable hosts.
- **Attractant and Trap Crops (push and pull Technology):** Strategically plant fewer valuable crops that act as decoys, attracting egg-laying female moths away from your main crop. Desmodium and Napier grass are particularly efficient for managing pest populations using this method.
- **Pruning:** By pruning trees to improve air circulation and reduce humidity



The False Codling Moth poses a serious threat to Kenya's economy. This is because it targets a wide range of valuable crops, including those that are crucial for our export earnings and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). To combat this destructive pest, a multi-pronged approach is necessary.





False codling moth larvae (Credit: Marja van der Straten, NVWA Plant Protection Service, Bugwood.org)

4. Chemical Control

While a variety of chemicals are registered for use against FCM, they should be a last resort due to several drawbacks such as harm to beneficial insects and resistance development.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is Key in minimizing these risks and ensuring long-term control, remember to follow the IPM principles. IPM focuses on combining various control methods, prioritizing non-chemical approaches whenever possible.

If, after implementing other control methods, chemical intervention becomes necessary, remember these crucial points for effective control:

- Consult a qualified professional: Seek guidance from a pest control expert to choose the most effective and environmentally responsible insecticide for your specific situation.
- Timely application: The timing of insecticide application is critical for successful control. Ensure proper timing based on the expert's recommendations and the product label instructions.

Examples of chemical pesticides include:

- AFIFEN 10.8% EC (Emulsifiable Concentrate), Reg. No. PCPB(CR)1410, an insect growth regulator used for controlling FCM in roses.

“ While a variety of chemicals are registered for use against FCM, they should be a last resort due to several drawbacks such as harm to beneficial insects and resistance development. ”

- LOCUS 150 WG (Wettable Granule), Reg. No. PCPB(CR)2112, is an insecticide for controlling FCM in Capsicum.
- AVOKING 200 SC (Suspension Concentrate), Reg. No. PCPB(CR)1148-P(i), is an insecticide for controlling FCM in avocados.
- OCCASION STAR 200 SC, Reg. No. PCPB(CR)1553, is an insecticide for controlling FCM in tomatoes, watermelons, and chilli peppers.

For more products, detailed usage instructions, and information on where to find them, please visit the PCPB website at <https://www.pcpb.go.ke/crops/>.

Once a minor pest, the False Codling Moth has become a significant threat to Kenyan agriculture. Its impact extends beyond damaging crops and reducing yields – it also hinders the export of valuable produce to key markets due to stringent quality control measures.

To safeguard the integrity of Kenyan plant exports, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) implemented stricter production standards. However, these standards, like requiring protected environments for certain crops, can be financially prohibitive for many small-scale farmers.

The answer is found in an integrated strategy. Cultural practices like field sanitation and fruit bagging offer promise. Biological control methods utilizing natural enemies are also being explored. Yet, the challenge of managing FCM within the constraints of reduced pesticide use on exported crops remains.

Further research and development are crucial to identify cost-effective solutions for smallholder farmers. Collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and farmers is essential to ensure Kenya's agricultural sector remains resilient in the face of evolving pest threats.

Pauline Rono, pauline@gmail.com

pauline@gmail.com
news@hortinews.co.ke





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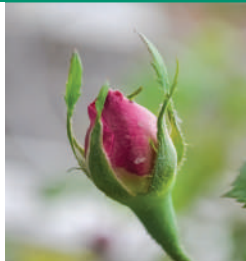
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- Enhances colours
- Ensures uniform opening
- Prolongs vase life
- Enables for Long Storage

Long storage has always been an interesting option, since the introduction of Chrysal Rose Dip Service in 2019. As sea freight possibilities are under pressure at the moment, we are increasingly offering our customers the option of long storage.

Having more flexibility over selling flowers

Chrysal Long Storage

What we have seen in the recent months is a strong adoption of long storage, whereby roses are stored longer than normal at farms to be shipped by air freight at a later moment than normal. Although the benefit of a cheaper freight option and less carbon emission is not there, in the case of sea freight of flowers, still the advantages - if well managed - outweigh the disadvantages:

- Timing the market following supply and demand; sell at a later date with higher price.
- Reduced need for flushing.
- Avoid waste of flowers that are produced at times of lower demand.
- Sell red roses when there is a market.
- Creating of operational advantages of not processing all flowers at once.
- Lastly, and this is an advantage purely to long storage, having more flexibility over selling flowers, not only today or in 4 weeks (sea freight), but with this option anywhere in between.

The requirements for success remain the same as for sea freight, but with the added requirement of

having good, sufficient and preferably dedicated cold store space at your farm. Input quality of your product remains key. Management of your product and proper timing of sell-date is important. Having a (dedicated) cold store available set at a low temperature is paramount where the climate is constant and stable.



To conclude, many good growers have adopted long storage nowadays in their processes in absence of sea freight, and Chrysal is working with many other growers to support this as well.

Controlling False Codling Moth (FCM) with Delegate 250 Wg

Biology of the FCM

The False Codling Moth, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, is a highly polyphagous pest, feeding on more than 50 plant species, mostly crops of economic importance. The pest has been spotted on export crops such as Capsicum spp, Citrus spp and Rosa spp. In the recent past the pest has become an increasingly important pest, necessitating more attention from a pest management point of view.

False Codling Moth (FCM) is a nocturnal pest with 1.25cm-2cm wings and colour variation. The eggs of FCM are laid singly or in small groups on the surface of the flower buds and the tender parts of the plants. Eggs are difficult to detect because they are flat and take same colour with the substrate. The pest has a 30-174 days lifecycle and can produce 2 to 10 generations in a year laying up to 800 eggs depending on multiple factors including temperature, food availability and quality, and humidity. Eggs hatch into larvae in 20-22 days. At maturity, the larvae exit from the fruit or flower buds and drop on the ground.

The stage likely to be detected during inspection is the larva, while in the field adult stages can be detected on traps. Larval stages are internal feeder in flower buds in the case of Roses. The larval stages are visually detected by use of a hand lens, usually done by looking out for symptomatic buds, which when opened small holes are observed in the bud where the larva has penetrated and exited the bud. Frass can also be observed protruding from the hole, larvae may migrate to the centre of the bud. The pupae then undergoes a metamorphosis to winged adults and the cycle restarts.



Pest management,

Cultural method:

- Remove all the unwanted affected plant parts.
- Keep the beds clean, free of plant debris. This would limit chances of Pupa stages hiding.
- Remove crown galls.

Biological method:

- Attract and Kill by use of pheromones
- Mating disruptors if available.

Chemical method:

Solution from Corteva Agriscience
Delegate 250 WG

DELEGATE 250 WG is the first registered FCM product on flowers in the market. The new kid on the block has a long heritage focused on offering complete solutions to the growers. The aim is to enrich the lives of producers and consumers, ensuring progress for generations to come. DELEGATE 250 WG is an insecticide belonging to the Spinosyns



Delegate™ 250 WG
Jemvelva® active

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UNMATCHED PROTECTION

Quick knockdown activity on:

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Application Rate: 150g/Ha

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class and to Group 5 mode of action classification. DELEGATE 250 WG has improved potency at target site, improved residual control, improved translaminar activity and penetration through the plant cuticle, increased activity at the target site and is more stable in sunlight. It provides broad spectrum activity on key pests from Lepidoptera, Thysanoptera, Diptera and Coleoptera and other pests such as Pear Psylla and Asian Citrus Psyllid. It is also effective on whiteflies nymphs and has ovi-larvicidal activity when sprayed on eggs.

Due to its improved rain-fastness and photo-stability property with no breakdown in sunlight, the product has better weather resilience. It delivers exceptional, fast-acting activity within minutes to hours with a fast knockdown on contact toxicity. DELEGATE 250 WG is a unique product that is highly active at the target site in the pest's nervous system causing paralysis within minutes its effective through ingestion and contact making it difficult for the target pest to escape the activity of the product.

DELEGATE 250 WG with low impact on beneficial arthropods making it compatible with IPM programs. Its short environmental persistence and greater ingestion versus contact activity minimises impact on natural enemies. It has minimal impact on pollinators once the spray deposit has dried up. It is practically non-toxic to honeybees when spray has dried up. DELEGATE 250 WG is safe with minimal risk (if any) to predatory lacewings, ladybird beetles, predatory mites, and parasitic wasps.

Moreover, it is a valuable tool in resistance management, it has shown no cross resistance within existing chemistries of the IRAC groups.”

With no phytotoxicity, no varietal sensitivity observed making it a suitable partner to be a mixed with most adjuvants when necessary, in addition to being compatible with commonly used Fungicides, Insecticides and Foliar Fertilizers.



The product won Presidential Green Chemistry awards in the USA, as well as AGROW award as Best New Crop Protection Product. It is also classified by EPA as a reduced risk pesticide. If properly utilised, DELEGATE 250 WG has the potential of further cementing Kenya's position as the leading flower exporter to the European markets.

To reduce the potential for resistance development we recommend alternation of DELEGATE 250WG with different Mode of Action actives recommended against control of FCM.

Mabati Rolling Mills -University of Nairobi Fresh Produce Aggregation Hub

By CATHERINE RIUNGU

In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at revolutionizing the agricultural landscape in Kenya, the University of Nairobi (UoN) has commissioned the Fresh Produce Aggregation and Distribution Hub at its Upper Kabete Campus a joint initiative with Mabati Rolling Mills (MRM). The project was cited as key highlight of the university's Innovation Week 2024, premised to enhance the supply chain for fresh produce, benefiting local farmers and improving market access.

At the heart of the initiative is the goal to empower smallholder horticultural farmers in rural areas by linking them to urban markets. "This hub will not only streamline the process of getting fresh produce to market but will also help farmers receive fair prices for their goods," stated Prof. Stephen Kiama, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi. He emphasized the importance of collaborations between higher institutions of learning and private sector (industry) in supporting the agricultural sector, which is a cornerstone of Kenya's economy. By improving profits and efficiency in the supply chain, the hub aims to significantly reduce post-harvest losses, added head of Horticulture at UoN, Prof Jane Ambuko.

MRM's commitment to quality was echoed by Steve Kiruhi, a representative from Mabati Rolling Mills, highlighting the importance of maintaining high standards throughout the supply chain. The hub will implement rigorous quality control measures to ensure that only the best produce is delivered to consumers.

During the initial phase of its operationalization, the hub will benefit from a collaborative project between UoN and the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO). Titled "Enhancing Productivity, Post-Harvest Management and Market Access of African Indigenous Vegetables in Kenya," this



project is sponsored by USAID's Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture at the University of California, Davis. "By leveraging research and best practices, we can significantly enhance productivity and market access for our farmers," said Prof. Ambuko.

The hub will feature state-of-the-art facilities for storage, packing, and distribution, which are crucial for extending the shelf life of fresh produce and reducing waste. "We are excited about the potential this hub has to transform the agricultural sector. It will provide farmers with not just a marketplace, but also access to training and resources to improve their farming practices," Prof. Ambuko added.

The launch event brought together various stakeholders, including government officials, agricultural organizations, and representatives from the private sector, all united in their vision to enhance the agricultural value chain. The collaboration aims to create a sustainable model that can be replicated across the country, showcasing best practices in urban aggregation and distribution.

"This is just the beginning," concluded Prof. Kiama. "We envision a future where Kenyan farmers thrive and contribute significantly to our national economy."

The launch of the Fresh Produce Aggregation Hub marks a pivotal moment in the journey toward agricultural transformation in Kenya, promising a brighter future for farmers and consumers alike, concluded Prof Ambuko.

catherine@hortinews.co.ke

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Nourish your coffee the Exome way!

Coffee is a key export of Kenya considering that it is the fifth largest foreign exchange earner for the country. Kenyan coffee exports almost doubled in January 2024 with 2,685 tonnes sold compared to 1,478 tonnes in December 2023. Revenues earned by the coffee sector of Kenya also rose by 72%. This is a clear indicator that there is a renewed interest globally in Kenyan coffee which puts the growers at a greater responsibility to produce berries of consistent quality and increase productivity.



Nutrition is the key to improving berry quality and marketability and most importantly, increasing yield.



Nutrition is the key to improving berry quality and marketability and most importantly, increasing yield. After all, your coffee tree is only as strong as its least available nutrient. Once your plant has nutritional deficiencies, it becomes susceptible to various diseases. This is why a grower should always prioritise providing the right nutrition at the right time to their coffee plants.

Exome Life Sciences® is committed to making a difference in the lives and livelihoods of farmers by providing an organic alternative to conventional coffee nutrition. Exome brings highly effective and sustainable products backed by years of research and innovation to Kenya. After thousands of success stories in various general crops, Exome entered the coffee market in 2023 with a vision to make coffee farming more profitable to growers. **MINBOOST** and **K-BIO** are unique products tailored for the nutritional needs of coffee. Already establishing a wide presence in co-operative societies across Mount Kenya and Rift Valley, Exome products are making farmers across the nation happy.



Ms. Varena, Managing Director of Exome Life Sciences, Kenya



Coffee farm in Rift Valley after applying 3 sprays of Minboost™



Mr. Jayakanth, Director of Marketing ;

Minboost™ is a foliar nutrient supplement for your coffee in a completely organic and bioavailable form. It stimulates better absorption of Copper, Boron, Zinc and Phosphorous to provide balanced nutrition to your coffee trees. These nutrients are essential for establishment and initiation of flowering. Minboost™ helps in :

- Preventing diseases caused by nutritional imbalance such as CBD, blight and rust
- Development of new and uniform shoots for increased productivity
- Uniform flowering to promote uniform ripening which increases the quality of berries.

Kenyan farmers are testifying that Minboost™ is a game changer for the coffee industry as they are reaping significant benefits.

K-Bio™ is an organic, bioavailable nutrient that helps in uptake and absorption of Potassium and Calcium. It is a foliar to be applied after flowering which promotes high-quality berry development and setting. K-Bio™ helps in :

- Preventing dieback by helping replenish essential nutrients which are used up during berry development stage
- Improved berry setting facilitated by high levels of Potassium
- Better mucilage formation which prevents the berries from being damaged during pulping, hence superior in quality and marketability
- Uniform berry development that prevents prolonged harvest period

- Faster ripening aided by increased availability of Calcium



Coffee farm in Mount Kenya after applying Minboost™ and K-Bio™

Application Guide

| Crop Establishment/ Uanzishaji wa mazao | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| Application Time /Kipimo cha | Product / Bidhaa ya | Dosage / Kipimo |
| Day 1 / Siku 1 | MINBOOST™ | 40ml /knapsack (20L) |
| Day 30 / Siku 30 | MINBOOST™ | 40ml /knapsack (20L) |
| Day 60 / Siku 60 | MINBOOST™ | 40ml /knapsack (20L) |
| Yield Management/ Usimamizi wa mavuno | | |
| After Flowering/Baada ya Maua | K-Bio™ | 40ml /knapsack (20L) |
| Berry Setting / Kuweka Berry | K-Bio™ | 40ml /knapsack (20L) |
| Berry Development Time / Wakati wa Maendeleo ya Berry | K-Bio™ | 40ml /knapsack (20L) |

Contact details :
Sarah Bibo (Mt Kenya) : +254 11 5865337
Francis Chepkuony (Rift Valley) : +254 703 939 365

Kenya's avocado industry: a rising powerhouse in global exports

By MURIITHI KARIUKI

Kenya has firmly established itself as a major player in the global avocado market, recently ranking as the 5th largest exporter of avocados after Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. This impressive feat highlights Kenya's growing influence in the horticultural sector and its potential for further expansion.

Growth and Expansion in Avocado Farming

Over the past three to five years, Kenya has seen a significant surge in avocado farming, particularly in the North Rift and Western regions. This expansion has not only boosted the local economies but also contributed substantially to the country's overall avocado production. The concerted efforts of farmers and stakeholders have led to a remarkable increase in export volumes.

A Booming Export Market

In 2023, Kenya exported avocados to over 152 destinations, showcasing the country's extensive reach in the global market. The volume of avocados exported saw a substantial rise, increasing by 19.6 percent from 391,507 tonnes in 2022 to an impressive 468,438 tonnes in 2023. This growth is a testament to the dedication and hard work of Kenyan farmers, as well as the favorable climate and fertile soils that make Kenya an ideal location for avocado cultivation.



Photo courtesy Karakuta Fresh Produce



Government Support and Market Potential

Recognizing the potential of the avocado industry, the Kenyan government has been actively supporting avocado farmers through various initiatives, including subsidy fertilizers and agricultural extension services. These incentives have made avocado farming even more attractive, providing farmers with the necessary resources to enhance their production and meet the ever-growing demand.

A Fruit of the Future

According to the Horticulture Crops Directorate, avocados are expected to become the second most traded major fruit by 2030, following bananas. This projection underscores the immense potential of avocados in the global market, making them a smart choice for anyone looking to invest in farming. With a ready market and ongoing government support, avocados offer a lucrative opportunity for both small-scale and large-scale farmers.

Kenya's avocado industry is on an upward trajectory, with a growing presence in the global market and increasing export volumes year after year. As avocados are poised to become a major traded fruit globally, investing in avocado farming presents a promising avenue for growth and success. For those considering venturing into agriculture, avocados offer a sustainable and profitable option with the backing of government support hand an expanding international market.

news@hortinews.co.ke



Inside Kakuzi avocado highlands

By MURIITHI KARIUKI

In the lush highlands of Kenya, nestled among the rolling hills, lies Kakuzi, a renowned avocado farm where precision and care define every step of their avocado journey.

At Kakuzi, segregation isn't just a practice; it's an art form. Every crate, carefully color-coded, tells a story of its origin. From the verdant groves of Hass and Pinkaton avocado trees, the fruits embark on a meticulous journey. Hass, with its creamy texture and rich flavor, dominates the yield at 87%, while the unique Pinkaton variety adds its own distinct touch at 13%.

During the avocado season, the farm bustles with activity around the clock. Two shifts ensure that every avocado, plump with promise, meets stringent quality standards destined for European markets. But in the off-season, under the gentle African sun, the rhythm slows to a steady daytime beat, focusing on jointly care and attention.

Upon arrival at the packing facility, the avocados are offloaded and arranged on pallets, their weight carefully recorded. Each fruit undergoes a thorough washing

process, cleansing away any trace of soil and bacteria. A proper sorts out through the harvest is done, diverting imperfect avocados for alternative use, such as oil production, ensuring that nothing goes to waste.

Next comes the sizing process, where avocados are graded to meet the preferences of discerning international markets. From small to large, each fruit finds its place, destined for a journey across continents.

Pallets, equipped with specialized gadgets, are whisked into the cold rooms, where they nestle among forty others, each maintaining a precise temperature of 6 degrees Celsius. Here, they patiently await their voyage, spending 45 days in cool, controlled conditions. Samples from each batch remain in the cold rooms, part of ongoing experiments to ensure peak quality during transit.

As the avocados prepare for their journey beyond Kenyan borders, the story of Kakuzi unfolds—a tale of dedication to quality, sustainability, and the art of perfecting nature's bounty. From the sun-dappled fields to the frosty cold rooms, every step at Kakuzi is a testament to the passion for delivering the finest avocados to tables across Europe and beyond

news@hortinews.co.ke



Avocado tree pruning: which' branch to remove, 'why' 'when' and 'how'

Pruning involve opening thick and dense canopy trees for better air, light penetration and circulation within; important to enhance photosynthesis flowering and fruition. Irrelevant tree branches removal during pruning also allow the tree focus all energy to fruit production, keep off crop pests and diseases.



1. Benefits of pruning;

- (a) Increase fruit size and yields(expect 50% increment)
- (b) Improve fruit health; prevent internal and exterior disorders
- (c) Save cost & time on pest sprays.
- (d) Ease harvesting reduce harvest costs.
- (e) Trigger flowering hormones into action for dormant trees.
- (f) Obtain yield during off season period.
- (g) Obtain desired future production canopy shape especially for young trees.
- (h) Maximise nutrients usage;

During pruning, farmer shld always seek to know 'which' branch to remove, 'why' 'when' and 'how'

2. On the 'WHICH' branch to remove and 'WHY' different pruning techniques apply:

- (a) Crown raising.
- (b) Crown thinning.
- (c) Vista pruning
- (d) Crown cleaning.
- (e) Lion 'tailing'
- (f) Pollarding.
- (g) Stag 'horning'

3. On the 'HOW' to prune; trees must be given SMOOTH and CLEAN CUTS.

We know trees are endowed with natural wound compartmentalizing cells which form layers outside cut wounds, fight pathogens and stop the wound from spreading(read callus tissues around tree wounds) one specific cell which fight pathogens infection is called _parenchyma_ We emphasize clean and smooth cuts for above process to happen. There is no need to 'dress' cut wounds esp for small young pruned trees as the applied dressing material type may inhibit/slow down natural wound compartmentalization and sealing/healing process.

4. On 'WHEN' to prune.

Pruning is better done immediately after fruit harvesting and during dry season for better wound sealing. Light pruning methods such as crown cleaning, crown raising can be done even during flower or fruit set period.



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| Annak Limited | Flowers | Mrs. Mwendu | 0724955232 | mwende@Mandaorchids.co.ke |
| Aurum Roses | Flowers | Anne Mbuthia | 0756778823 | anne@Aurumroses.com |
| Azalea Blooms Ltd | Flowers | Saskia Sighh | 0736364155 | info@AzaleabloomsLtd.com |
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| Big Flowers Plc | Flowers | Mr.sunny | +971564142431 | trade@Btfgroup.com |
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| Black Tulip Group Ltd | Flowers | Mohan Choudhery | 0789999924 | trade@Btfgroup.com |
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| Info@Lolomarik.com | | | | |
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| Mp Flowers Kenya Ltd | Flowers | | | mpflower@Comcast.net |
| Mt. Kenya Sprouts Ltd | Flowers | Alice Muthoni | 0700294440 | muthoni@Mtkenyasprouts.com |
| Multi Grow Investments | Flowers | | 0724977259 | info@Multigrow.com |
| 5Growers09@Gmail.com | | | | |
| Mumiflora Limited | Flowers | Lucy | 0740383695 | barakaroses@Gmail.com |
| Sales@Barakaroses.com | | | | |
| Murara Plants Limited | Flowers | | 0780625253 | murara@Muraraplants.co.ke |
| Mwihoko Flowers | Flowers | | | |
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| Pkemei99@Hotmail.com | | | | |
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| Neptune Flowers Agencies | Flowers | | 0722808385 | sales@Neptuneflowers.com |
| Ninth Avenue Limited | Flowers | Reginah Gathoni | 0705424147 | regina@Ninthavenueltd.com |
| Nirp East Africa Ltd | Flowers | Alessandro Ghione | 0724264653 | info.ke@Nirpinternational.com |
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| Pro-Root | Flowers | Julias | 0722200890 | |
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| Range Farm | Flowers | Connie Munee | 0780716110 | xxportsranges@Gmail.com |
| Rebby Touch Flowers | Flowers | | 0721634110 | rebbytouchflowers@Yahoo.com |
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| Rosa Park Flowers | Flowers | | | |
| Royal Deep Dreams Limited | Flowers | | | |
| Royal Floraholland Kenya Limited | Flowers | | 0740887502 | contact@Nlbh.ke |
| Royal\$Fresh Limited | Flowers | | 0732657227 | remboflowerskenya@Gmail.com |
| Rembo Flowers | Flowers | | | |
| Rift Valley Roses(K) Ltd | Flowers | | 0721216026 | info@Riftvalleyroses.com |
| Fm@Riftvalleyroses.co.ke | | | | |
| Simbi Roses | Flowers | Mr. Jefferson K. Karue | 06744292, 0202042203 | simbi@Sansora.co.ke |
| Simona Flowers Limited | Flowers | | 0740800026 | simonaflowers74@Gmail.com |
| Slikweid Kenya Limited | Flowers | | +31628209841 | info@Slikweid.nl |
| Sojanmi Springfields Ltd | Flowers | | | |
| Sololo Agriculture Limited | Flowers | | 0721602130 | |
| Soloplant Kenya Limited | Flowers | Mr. Hagai | 0202017448 | hagai@Soloplant.co.ke |
| Sosiani Flowers Limited | Flowers | | | |
| Sq Flora Ltd | Flowers | | | |
| Stokman Rozen Kenya Limited | Flowers | Mr. James Hutchings | 0720604000 | info@Srk.co.ke |
| Sunfloritech Limited | Flowers | | 0721937455 | trade@Btfgroup.com |
| Supreme Floral Ltd | Flowers | | 0727233485 | supremefloraltd@Gmail.com |
| Sabwani Flowers Limited | Flowers | | 0721176070 | sabwaniflowers@Gmail.com |
| Sand Pro Growers Ltd | Flowers | | 0758434343 | info@Sandprogrowers.com |
| Saruni Blossoms | Flowers | | | |
| Savanna Flowers Plc | Flowers | Peter Barker | 0740103609 | info@Savannaflowers.com |
| Selecta Kenya | Flowers | | | |
| Shalimar Flowers Kenya Limited | Flowers | Mrs. Elizabeth Wahogo | 0738391832 | elizabethw@Eaga.co.ke |
| Sierra Flora Limited | Flowers | | | hello@Sierraflora.com |
| Tambuzi Ltd | Flowers | | 0790539344 | info@Tambuzi.co.ke |
| Terrasol Kenya Limited | Flowers | Mr. Sjaak Nannes | 0722387943 | info@Terralsolkenya.com |
| The Flower Patch Ltd | Flowers | | | |
| The Flower People Limited | Flowers | Jane | 0702545524 | jane@Theflowerpeople.co.ke |
| The Flower Source | Flowers | | | |
| Tripple F Agencies | Flowers | Amos | 0735405982 | sales@Fagencies.co.ke |
| Tulaga Flowers Limited | Flowers | Esther Kamau | 0708350122 | marketing@Fairtradeafrica.net |
| Twee Flowers | Flowers | | | |
| Two Chiefs | Flowers | Waiyaki Ngugi | 0714194720 | waiyakiztctfloral.com |
| Tambuzi Ltd | Flowers | Tim Hobbs | 0722881707 | info@Tambuzi.co.ke |
| Timaflor Ltd | Flowers | Mr. Julias Kinoti | 06241263 | timaflor@Wananchi.com |
| Tropiken Blooms Ltd | Flowers | | 0714805872 | info@Tropikenblooms.co.ke |
| Ultra Flo Ltd | Flowers | | 0720858465 | info@Ultraflo.biz |
| Uniflora Services Limited | Flowers | | 0721957949 | uniflowerandplants@Gmail.com |
| United Selections Kenya Ltd | Flowers | | 0203566135 | |
| Valentinegrowers Co.ltd | Flowers | Alex Maina | 0202020585 | alex.maina@Valentinegrowers.com |
| Van Den Berg Limited | Flowers | Loek Van Adrichem | +31631791898 | loek@Bergroses.com |
| Victoria Dale Flowers | Flowers | | | |
| Wermort Industries Ltd | Flowers | | 0733723258 | info@Wermortflowers.co.ke |
| White Valley General Merchant | Flowers | Margaret | 0722486225 | info@Whitevalley.co.ke |
| Wilfay Investment Ltd | Flowers | | 0203874477 | wdkiboro@Gmail.com |
| Xpressions Flora Ltd | Flowers | Mr. M Rasam | 0202312888 | info@Xflora.net |
| Zamzam Flowers | Flowers | | | |
| Zeeflora Ltd | Flower | Shaban Kurji | 0724493344 | shabankurji@Zeeflora.com |
| Zedgee Flowers Ltd | Flowers | | | |
| Zedgee Ltd | Flowers | | | |



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