

# **Report 2nd All Africa Horticulture Congress ‘Horticulture for Humanity’ 15-20 January 2012, Skukuza, South Africa**

## **Introduction**

The congress was organized by Southern African Society for Horticulture Science (SASHS) under the aegis of the International Society for Horticulture Science (ISHS) with the theme ‘Horticulture for humanity’. The congress brings together 24 different countries, scientist involved in different horticulture endeavors in Africa and a platform to share experience and expertise.

In the programme they was a keynote speaker each day followed by oral presentations covering a very wide range of subject areas (Post Harvest, selection & Evaluation, Nutrition & irrigation, Pest & Disease Management, Product development/sensory Attributes, Orchard Management & cultivation practices, integrated farming, rural Development, Genetics, Breeding & Biotechnology, Propagation-Vegetative, Propagation seed, Urban and Peri Urban Horticulture, Plant Physiology, industries, modeling and Medicinal plants/ Secondary Metabolites).

They was also four FAO site events

-‘Fruit and Vegetable consumption for Health’

-‘Horticulture Biodiversity: How it can nurture and nourish Africa in the 21 st Century’

-‘Food City Supply’

‘FAO training on Hortivar’

We also had three workshops scheduled throughout the week and discussion:

-Technology incubation

-Biotechnology tools "Biotechnology tools for Horticulture crop Development: South-South partnerships".

-Genebank and Genetic resources



Delegate from Gabon, Namibia, Burundi and FAO's staff from Burundi

## **Summary**

The congress went well although there was the low –water Crocodile River in the Kruger was swamped by flood water National Park on Thursday 19 January 2012. The crocodile Bridge entrance gate has been closed to all the vehicles. Several other routes in Mpumalanga have also been affected by the heavy rain.



Bridge in Kruger Park damaged by rain water

According to a Report of a Joint FAO / WHO Workshop Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), cancer, obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus, currently kill more people every year than any other cause of death. Four factor in the epidemiology of these diseases:

-Poor diet, Physical inactivity, tobacco and alcohol use.

There is a need of policy to increase the consumption of fruits and vegetable in Africa, we should eat at least 400 g of fruits and vegetables per day. No African country has reached this level yet.

Messages about fruit and vegetables consumption need to be integrated into food-based dietary guidelines, to be country specific and cultural relevant, and coordinated with other message about healthy diets.

## **Reason for low vegetable consumption in Africa**

- insufficient production
- insufficient access
- Trend of Urbanization
- Social culture, wrong attitudes

## **Problem need to be address through**

- Community garden
- Promote Fruit and vegetable for health
- Promotion of school garden

FAO's having project with government who are addressing the issue through project (Orange sweet potato project), there are also some success initiatives with international NGO in Bangladesh who need to be replicate:

- Partner ownership
- Long term development strategy
- Capacity building
- Regular Revue

Most of the project who are falling is due to the lack of appropriate communication

Lack of scientific knowledge

- Access of micro credit to poor community



Training on Hortivar FAO's geo-referenced database on performance to Horticulture cultivar and a platform to horticulture knowledge management and exchange.

Another big problem raised by Global Horticulture initiatives for Africa is the lack of data

Urban and peri Urban Horticulture

With the Exodus of rural people to urban areas in developing countries has led to rapid and massive increases in the urban population

The development of urban and peri-urban horticulture is an essential component of a broader program for improved food security in Namibia. This program addresses four major predicaments encountered by the growing urban population:

- High rate of unemployment.
- Increased demand for food supplies.
- Lack of fertile land.
- Low consumption of fruits and vegetable in Namibia

Food insecurity in addition to HIV/AIDS and the weakening capacity of institutions to deliver critical services has been identified as the triple threat by the United Nations in Namibia.

## **Conclusion and recommendation**

The congress should be affordable to all the scientist to share the information for the benefit of horticulture in Africa

We should find a balance between scientific research work and success case project in Africa (Presentation of abstract)

We need a platform to share information among scientist in Africa

We need to pilot at least one project to increase the consumption of fruits and vegetable in one country of Africa and record all the data into Hortivar.

Post-harvest technology need to be implemented in a lot of project to reduce the lost

We need to kept the data of all the project we are implementing in Africa, this is a key to convince the decision making authority

There is no increasing of the consumption of fruit and vegetable without a strong policy.

To develop urban and Peri Urban Horticulture project, we need to develop a task team with all the stack holder (Municipality, Ministry of Agriculture, NGO's, CBO's, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Gender...).