



FLOWERS NEWS 10 June 2008



Newsletter by the Secretariat of the Review Committee FFP

Dear readers:

This newsletter is designed to inform you about the latest news in the flower industry around the whole world. Our writers are the members of the Review Committee of FFP and sympathising organisations. Below each article you will find the name of the writer and his/her e-mail address in case you would like to know more about the subject.

Enjoy it and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any comment and/or question about this newsletter.

King Regards,

Editors

C. Betsabé Lugo Rodríguez

Secretariat in Brussel

Rue Fossé-aux-Loups 38

1000 Brussels, Belgium

Telephone: +32 (0) 22260665

Mobiles: +32 (0) 497549780

+31 (0) 623373221

b.lugo@fairflowersfairplants.com

Sebastian Odanga

Secretariat in Nairobi

West End Place building

Mai Mahiu rd, off Langata rd

P.O BOX 2378-00100 G.P.O

Nairobi, Kenya

Telephone: +254-20609433

Mobile: +254 720 538 855

iuflantic@lantic.net

sirsebby@yahoo.com

News from FFP bodies:

Secretariat –Brussels

✚ Training of observers in Colombia and Ecuador (May 19th till 24th 2008)

Betsabé Lugo Rodríguez on behalf of the Secretariat of the Review Committee of FFP travelled to Colombia and Ecuador in May to train observers for future audits in those countries. We had 6 participants in Colombia on behalf of the NGOs and 1 on behalf of the Trade Unions. In Ecuador we trained 7 observers representing NGOs and 13 trade unions affiliated.

By Betsabé Lugo: b.lugo@fairflowersfairplants.com

Secretariat – Nairobi

✚ Review Committee

The next Review Committee meeting will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from July 21st till 26th 2008.

Board

✚ Board

The Board meeting was held on June 17th 2008 in Frankfurt, Germany.

The agenda points were:

1. Opening and announcements
2. Approval of Minutes Board meeting of 28 February 2008
3. Decision document regarding staff/office etc.
4. Draft budget foundation Sept/December 2008 and 2009
5. Annual report 2007
6. Action plan + action list with time schedule
7. State of play new rule growers per 1st of June
8. Follow-up status registered FFP participants
9. Board representative for growers in the South
10. Proposal board meeting scheme coming year + date next meeting
11. Report on actual state of play of two projects (EU project, Min BuZa project)
12. Any other business

The next meeting will be in October 2008 in The Netherlands.

By Regina Dinkla: r.dinkla@fairflowersfairplants.com

FFP office – Honselersdijk

🚩 FFP participants

FFP has in total 1551 participants: 269 producers, 206 traders and 1076 retailers.

By Regina Dinkla: r.dinkla@fairflowersfairplants.com

News from Africa:

Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda

No news

News from North America:

United States

🚩 ILRF has developed a flower campaign toolkit.

The International Labor Rights Forum began its "Fairness in Flowers" campaign in 2003, forging collaborative relationships with unions and NGOs in Colombia and Ecuador, and bringing the concerns mentioned above into the public eye in the US. They have conducted research on the ground, pressured companies such as Dole to respect the rights of their employees, and testified before Congress, the UN, and the State Department. ILRF has organized speaking tours across the U.S., enabling American consumers to hear the firsthand experiences of South American flower workers. ILRF has also formed alliances with other organizations to help flower workers assert their labor rights. ILRF continues to be committed to bringing justice to the flower workers.

This toolkit has been prepared by the International Labor Rights Forum to continue to educate on the alarming issues that flower workers face and to provide the tools for change. The US consumers are mostly the target of the toolkit. The whole document is available online at

<http://www.laborrights.org/creating-a-sweatfree-world/fairness-in-lowers/resources/1251>

By Nora Ferm: nora.ferm@ilrf.org

News from Latin America:

Ecuador

🚩 The campaign for the training of trainers started in June. (FENACLE Pichincha, June 2nd 2008)

FENACLE has organised training for trainers in Tabacundo. The aim of the training is to equip the participants with the skills on how to train workers in the plantations about their labour rights. The Master Marcelo Vásquez, Educational Supervisor in Pichincha and professor at the University will be the speaker in coordination of Ing. Marcelo Arcos from FENACLE.

Original in Spanish by Marcelo Arcos: arcosmarcelo1966@gmail.com

🚩 How Roses Can Brighten Mom's Day (Kerry A. Dolan, FORBES, May 1st 2008)

This Mother's Day, the flowers you send to your mother were very likely grown in South America--and they may have been picked or bundled by a mother there.

This has been good news for mothers everywhere: The lavish bouquets brightening the days of U.S. moms have meant steady pay checks and relatively safe jobs in countries such as Ecuador. But flower growers in Ecuador are nervous that their business with the U.S. may shrivel at the end of this year: The U.S. Congress will be weighing whether to extend or scrap the rules put in place in 1991 that have helped the flower business grow.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/technology/2008/05/01/mothers-day-flowers-tech-personal-czkad0501mom.html>

Article provided by Nora Ferm: nora.ferm@ilrf.org

Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras

No news

News from Asia:

Sri Lanka, India, Vietnam

No news

News from Europe:

Netherlands

🚩 "Combining flavours": Conference on tropical commodities (April 18th 2008)

The theme of the conference was: Working towards a sustainable tea, coffee and cocoa supply chain, an interchange of strategies to address social, environmental and economic issues. Might our flower initiative join the tropical commodity Forum? After listening to the debates one could draw the conclusion that the marketing and production chain of the three mentioned commodities are very different from the flower chain. Good cooperation is always important, but a real participation is not foreseeable in the near future.

By Kees Hoek: keeshoek@olaa.nl

🚩 Visit to Colombia, Ecuador and Costa Rica (May 17th till 28th 2008)

The Dutch flower coalition (Rene Kouwenhoven – FNV Bondgenoten-, Kees Hoek – OLAA- and Eva Schmitz – BothENDS-) visited Colombia, Ecuador and Costa Rica. The main objective of the visit was to meet the local partners and try to find new interested partners. They had an opportunity to talk with the local producer associations on FFP.

By Kees Hoek: keeshoek@olaa.nl

🌱 **Meeting of Dutch Women Organisations (May 29th 2008)**

Kees Hoek participated in a workshop and made a presentation about FFP at a meeting of Dutch Women organisations. The topic of this meeting was "Sustainable production and respectful behaviour". About 20 Women of various organisations participated in the workshop and there was an interesting debate on sustainability and flower production. Later the discussion was held at the plenary. All organisations present represent more than 1.000.000 members. Various organisations promised to ask for FFP flowers in the shops, as private persons and for their organisations.

Article by Kees Hoek: keeshoek@olaa.nl

🌱 **Launch of new Portal for Codes, Standards and Certification Systems (Amersfoort/Utrecht, 22nd May 2008)**

FairMatch Support and ICCO will be launching a web-based portal today that compares codes, standards and certification systems promoting environmental sustainability and fair trade. The portal compares 14 popular codes and standards on aspects including their benefits, requirements and costs, with a strong focus on the food sector and the European market.

The portal aims to bring clarity in this standards jungle. One of its key objectives is to assist producers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries in assessing the applicability and pros and cons of the various codes, standards and certification systems. In addition, the portal aims to provide trading and marketing companies in Europe with clear insights into the possibilities and implications of individual codes and standards.

The portal includes the following codes and standards: BSCI, SA8000, Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade (FLO), GlobalGAP, UTZ CERTIFIED, ETI Base Code, EcoCert Fair Trade Standards, IMO Social and Fairtrade Certification Programme, Soil Association-Ethical Trade Organic Standards, BRC Global Standards, HACCP, ISO22000, and Organic (EU). The portal can be accessed directly through the FairMatch Support website: <http://www.fairmatchsupport.nl/Portal.htm>

For more information please contact: FairMatch Support - Jennie van der Mheen - Tel +31 6 12 33 95 80 E-mail info@fairmatchsupport.nl or ICCO - Carla Kivits - Tel + 31 6 15 89 72 68 - E-mail Carla.kivits@icco.nl

Article provided by Nathalie Van Haren: nh@bothends.org

Belgium, UK, Germany, Switzerland

No news

Dear Writers:

The next deadline to send your news is on **August 4th 2008**. Don't forget it, this newsletter is for you!!

Thanks,

Betsabé Lugo and Sebastian Odanga
Editors