



## FLOWERS NEWS 9 April 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**

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### **News from FFP bodies:**

#### **Secretariat – Brussels**

##### **✚ Extranet application**

The development of an extranet application for the members of the Review Committee starts on April and it will be ready by the end of May.

By Betsabé Lugo: [b.lugo@fairflowersfairplants.com](mailto:b.lugo@fairflowersfairplants.com)

##### **✚ The manual for observers is ready!**

On April 4<sup>th</sup> 2008, the Secretariat of the RC received the printed version of the manual for observers in English, Dutch and Spanish. We have in total 250 copies. The distribution will follow.

By Betsabé Lugo: [b.lugo@fairflowersfairplants.com](mailto:b.lugo@fairflowersfairplants.com)

#### **Secretariat – Nairobi**

##### **✚ Facilitation of the observers in audits**

On 26th February 2008 in Honselersdijk, the Netherlands, the RC secretariat represented by Sebastian Odanga, Kees Hoek- OLAA, Jacques Wolbert- MPS-ECAS and Marcel Bongaards-MPS-ECAS held a meeting on issues pertaining with the facilitation of observers in audits. The meeting resolved among other things,

to improve the facilitation of the observers during audits by ensuring schedules for audits are shared in good time between the secretariat and the MPS-ECAS office, and expenses incurred in the course of duty are paid for by MPS-ECAS through the secretariat office in Nairobi.

By Sebastian Odanga: [sirsebby@yahoo.com](mailto:sirsebby@yahoo.com)

#### 🚩 **FFP Board meeting (28<sup>th</sup> February 2008, Brussels, Belgium)**

On 28th February 2008, the secretariat of the Review Committee participated (as observers) in the Board meeting held in Brussels, Belgium.

The key issues discussed included the coming to an end of the transition period for FFP participants and the regulations after the transition period. This discussion was to be concluded before the 31st May 2008( end of transition period) to allow consultations among members of the Review Committee on a proposal put forward by the members of the Industry and Trade committee.

Other discussions centred on the proposal for funding where members agreed to allow the services of a consultant to assist in drafting a business plan/proposal.

By Sebastian Odanga: [sirsebby@yahoo.com](mailto:sirsebby@yahoo.com)

### **Board**

#### 🚩 **Board**

The next meeting will be on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2008.

By Regina Dinkla: [r.dinkla@fairflowersfairplants.com](mailto:r.dinkla@fairflowersfairplants.com)

### **FFP office – Honselersdijk**

#### 🚩 **FFP flowers in The Netherlands**

Since March 15th 2008, the consumers in The Netherlands can find FFP flowers in some stores in Amersfoort, Amsterdam, Badhoevedorp, Den Haag, Goes, Gouda, Haarlem, Heerenveen, Nootdorp, Rotterdam, Sneek, Utrecht, Winterswijk and Zwolle.

By Regina Dinkla:

[r.dinkla@fairflowersfairplants.com](mailto:r.dinkla@fairflowersfairplants.com)



#### 🚩 **FFP participants**

In the beginning of March 2008 FFP had in total 1350 participants from where 960 are stores in 5 countries.

By Regina Dinkla: [r.dinkla@fairflowersfairplants.com](mailto:r.dinkla@fairflowersfairplants.com)

### **International news:**

#### 🚩 **The role of codes of conduct in protecting and promoting workers' health: an example in the cut-flower industry (GOHNET No. 14, Winter 2007/2008)**

Codes can play a significant role in the promotion and protection of workers' health by allowing for multi-stakeholder participation, a transparent monitoring and evaluation system, feedback mechanism and ownership at the local level.

To read more go to:

[http://www.who.int/occupational\\_health/publications/newsletter/gohnet\\_14e.pdf](http://www.who.int/occupational_health/publications/newsletter/gohnet_14e.pdf)

By Yahya Khamis Msangi: [aishamaulid@hotmail.com](mailto:aishamaulid@hotmail.com)

## **News from Africa:**

### **Kenya**

#### **🌍 Small-scale farmers benefit from growing summer flowers; growing fillers for bouquets. (March 25, 2008)**

Mr Isaac Njoroge, a farmer in Kandara Division in Murang'a South District, is among a group of 18 farmers who have formed a welfare group whose main activity is contract-farming of summer flowers.

The new programme—Kenya Horticultural Development Programme—funded by USAid, is benefiting small scale farmers in rural areas. The initiative is part of a drive to improve flower farming among small- scale land owners.

Since 2005 when the programme was started by USAid together with Kenya Agriculture Research Centre (Kari), earnings from the flowers have increased because of increase in the variety of flowers grown and training on better farming methods. Kari conducts research to determine the best variety of flowers based on the local climate and soil types and distributes seedlings to farmers. This is meant to ensure that farmers only grow seedlings that are improved and not vulnerable to disease to enable better yields.

After harvest, farmers take their flowers to Wilmar and Nature Growth Limited, a company located in Thika town. Flowers are sorted out in the factory and graded for export. Others are taken to export processing zones to make bouquets.

The company ships flowers five times a week, mainly to Amsterdam, thus ensuring that small-scale farmers are able to access the international market every weekday, said Mr Wilfred Kamami, the managing director of Wilmar. He says the prices for the summer type of flowers have grown as demand both in the local and international markets increase. This has created an opportunity for local farmers.

Article provided by Sebastian Odanga: [sirsebby@yahoo.com](mailto:sirsebby@yahoo.com)

### **Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda**

No news

## **News from North America:**

### **United States**

#### **🌍 ILRF met the Ecuadorian Ambassador in Washington, D.C. (March 25<sup>th</sup> 2008)**

Nora Ferm of ILRF met with Ecuadorian Ambassador Luis Gallegos in Washington, DC, to discuss concerns regarding labour conditions in the Ecuadorian cut flower industry.

By Nora Ferm: [nora.ferm@ilrf.org](mailto:nora.ferm@ilrf.org)

#### **🌍 ILRF in a briefing for US Congressional staff (April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008)**

ILRF Executive Director Bama Athreya spoke at a briefing for US Congressional staff regarding the pending US-Colombia free trade agreement and working conditions in the Colombian flower industry. Other speakers included Jeff Vogt of the AFL-CIO labor federation, and a flower worker from Colombia.

By Nora Ferm: [nora.ferm@ilrf.org](mailto:nora.ferm@ilrf.org)

#### **🌍 Certified roses from Colombia in the US market**

Rainforest Alliance has begun certifying roses for the US market. Costco stores are selling Rainforest Alliance-certified flowers grown in Colombia.

By Nora Ferm: [nora.ferm@ilrf.org](mailto:nora.ferm@ilrf.org)

## **News from Latin America:**

### **Ecuador**

#### **🚩 Study about benefits and labour rights (FENACLE, February 2008)**

On February 2008, FENACLE (Ecuadorian Trade Union) finished a study about the benefits and the labour rights in flower companies in the cantons of Cayambe and Pedro Moncayo. The study contains the profile of the companies and plantations and the labour rights of the workers in the plantations.

For more information please take contact with Marcelo Arcos: [arcosmarcelo1966@gmail.com](mailto:arcosmarcelo1966@gmail.com)

### **Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras**

No news

## **News from Asia:**

### **Philippines**

#### **🚩 Pesticide exposure and health problems among cut flowers farmers**

The National Institute of Health of the University of the Philippines in Manila has published a research study on the impact of pesticide exposure on health of flower workers. The study focuses on cholinesterase. Strongest correlation between high cholinesterase levels and pesticide exposure were found when workers used contaminated cloth or when pesticides have not been mixed properly. You can find the study in the web: <http://www.occup-med.com/content/pdf/1745-6673-2-9.pdf>

Article provided by Nathalie van Haren: [nh@bothends.org](mailto:nh@bothends.org)

### **Sri Lanka, India, Vietnam**

No news

## **News from Europe:**

### **Netherlands**

#### **🚩 Certification of retail flower shops (February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008)**

There was a hearing organised by Stichting Milieu Keur attended by Nathalie van Haren and Kees Hoek. We discussed the initiative to certify retail flower shops interested in selling in a more sustainable way their products. So they buy certified flowers and sell them in their shops, they must safe energy in their shops and clean it with approved detergents etc. A shopkeeper can qualify on three levels: bronze, silver and gold. This depends upon the amount of points he/she gets during an audit. For each aspect you are rewarded a certain amount op points, for example, if you use green energy and master to safe energy, you could earn extra points. We discussed the certification scheme during this meeting.

Article by Kees Hoek: [keeshoek@olaa.nl](mailto:keeshoek@olaa.nl)

#### **🚩 Working agencies certified by NEN 4001 (February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008)**

From the observers in The Netherlands we heard that growers hiring services from NEN 4001 certified working agencies were not submitted to audits anymore. So auditors were not expected to check workers sent by these working agencies. Producers are responsible for all workers on their farm. By random checking an auditor can check on the records of these workers as well, which means that during an audit these documents should be available. In case of no compliance the auditor should report that as a deprivation.

Article by Kees Hoek: [keeshoek@olaa.nl](mailto:keeshoek@olaa.nl)

### ✚ **DVD on labour conditions and the environmental impact of the cut flower sector worldwide**

According to the ICC, the Review Committee wants to make an informative/educational DVD on positive and negative aspects of the international flower industry regarding labour conditions and the environmental impact of the cut flower sector worldwide. With this intention, Kees Hoek contacted a documentary maker in The Netherlands.

Article by Kees Hoek: [keeshoek@olaa.nl](mailto:keeshoek@olaa.nl)

### ✚ **Protocol for audits**

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008, Kees Hoek and Betsabé Lugo held a meeting with Jacques Wolbert from MPS to talk about a draft protocol for audits. The meeting was held in The Netherlands.

Article by Kees Hoek: [keeshoek@olaa.nl](mailto:keeshoek@olaa.nl)

### ✚ **Publicity campaign for FFP**

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 the manager and the chair of FFP together with other members of the label had a meeting to talk about the publicity campaign that FFP will start in The Netherlands as a result of the introduction of FFP flowers in the Dutch market.

Article by Kees Hoek: [keeshoek@olaa.nl](mailto:keeshoek@olaa.nl)

## **Belgium**

### ✚ **Belgium Flower campaign**

On April 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 the Nederlands Bloemen Beraad (NBB) will visit Brussels to have a meeting with the coordinators of the Belgium flower campaign. The aim of the visit is to discuss the possibilities for a mutual cooperation. After the meeting we will visit VMS office (Belgium producer association).

Article by Kees Hoek: [keeshoek@olaa.nl](mailto:keeshoek@olaa.nl)

## **UK, Germany, Switzerland**

No news

### **Dear Writers:**

The next deadline to send your news is on **June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008**. Don't forget it, this newsletter is for you!!

Thanks,

***Betsabé Lugo and Sebastian Odanga***  
Editors