

Sustainability Standards:

Any Chance for Participation by African Small Scale Farmers?

Horticulture Perspective

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Standards: Any Relevance to African Small Scale Farmers?

- Yes – Standards are the passport to trade, more so for small scale farmers
 - BUKLING:
 - no standards - no bulking
 - no bulking – no volumes
 - No volumes - no trade

Small Scale Farming: Types

- Defining small scale:
 - acreage?, level of technology?, extend of participation in the value chain?
 - What it isn't: Not kitchen gardens, and not peasant farming – it's a business
- Types:
 - Smallholder cooperation
 - Maximizes benefits at farmer level, but assumes member uniformity. Challenging to sustain
 - Out-growers (with an estate farm)
 - Suitable for commodity crops. Needed- many buyers and many growers
 - Contact farming (with or without a central farm)
 - Guaranteed market, challenging to sustain because of demand/price fluctuations

Is small scale farming for global trade feasible?

- Yes, Kenyan case
 - Horticulture exports in 2007 was 1.1 billion US\$ (45% veges, 55% flowers)
 - Small scale account for about 420 mil US\$ export value
 - About 500,000 growers (250 exporters, all others medium and small scale)
 - Small scale the largest growing segment (0.5-2 acres on veges and summer flowers)
 - Efficiency of small scale (lower medium scale is a no-go scale)

Standards – Quite a Mob

- Types
 - Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS)
 - Sanitary –Basically HACCP, Phytosanitary
 - Whose mandate? Govt or private sector?
 - Fair Trade/Labor standards
 - Trickle-down issue
 - Environmental / Eco labels
 - eg carbon miles issue
 - Private and Public
 - A role or each
- Issues: facilitates market access BUT
 - The legal issues
 - Multiplicity/ Duplication/Transparency/Cost/...
 - Private/Public/Basis (WTO SPS Protocol?)

Standards and Small Scale Farming

- '*modus operandi*' designed for large farms, not small ones (implication – high cost and level of knowledge)
 - Small scale farms have to devise suitable compliance mechanisms (e.g. KenyaGAP)
 - Eg –a box for a house,
- Certification IS NOT a sustainable way of proving compliance
 - Certification is MORE EXPENSIVE than Compliance
 - Compliance already commonplace, but certification is decreasing
- Small scale cannot survive proliferation of standards, multiplicity of checks, or complex procedures

Standards and Small Scale Farming- Way Forward

- A Systems Approach – Rather than the current individual farm Approach
 - Based on the Competent Authority structure, incorporating official control systems, and organized industry self checks/controls
 - The CA –structure is certified and periodically assessed, with severe punitive measures for non compliance. Payment is at CA-structure level
 - Tests frequency is conditioned on statistical level of risk, and sampling is random (scientific)
 - UTOPIAN? No. Beef industry after BSE (mad cow disease). Fish (EU DG SANCO, FVO approach) especially from lake victoria.
- Small scale participating in a defined trade pattern is organized – for efficient and cost effective compliance to standards
- Options-
 - legal approach (e.g. challenge under WTO SPS)
 - Collaborate, and reform from within (e.g. KenyaGAP)
 - Change the markets (e.g. go regional)

■AHSANTE SANA

- Dank u wel
 - Arigato gosaimasu
 - Merci beaucoup
 - Thankyou
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