

# The Netherlands, Ethiopia and Kenya meet on horticulture, climate change



Participants at the Green Farming / Kenya Flower Council climate and energy workshop

BY JOSEPH MUKUBWA

The Green Farming and the Kenya Flower Council held a one-day workshop in April at Naromoru River Lodge Nyeri, which was aimed at sensitising participants on the new innovative techniques for climate change and energy management.

This was held during the horticultural trade mission where the Dutch business delegation visited Kenya and Ethiopia in their five-day tour.

Participants included senior officials who are based locally and internationally from about 20 international companies who are part of the Green Farming.

The trade mission brings together horticultural stakeholders from Kenya, Ethiopia and the Netherlands through seminars. They exchange information in areas related to horticultural issues.

The three-year Green Farming programme will also facilitate the

co-operation between growers from East Africa and relevant networks from the Netherlands.

During the trade mission, experts strengthened co-operation ties between Dutch and East African Business networks.

"Co-operation is an important factor in the success of the Dutch horticultural sector. The Dutch horticultural cluster is a global trendsetter and the undisputed international market leader in horticultural business," said Francis Hoogerwerf the Green Farming secretary.

Participants emphasised the significance of co-operation of the international network of businesses active in floriculture, flower bulbs, decorative trees and fruits and vegetables.

"The leading position in greenhouse technology is a result of a strong domestic and foreign market development. The Netherlands stands for quality, expertise, experience and innovation," said Harm Maters, the chairman of Green Farming.

He stressed the importance of sustainable production methods such as recycling of water, tissue culture technology, the use of solar energy and the need for integrated pest management methods. These are all very important issues for the Ethiopian and the Kenyan sector," he reiterated. Maters was accompanied by two secretaries of Green Farming namely; Hoogerwerf and Jelle Posthumus.

The profile of the Green Farming Programme will be focused on water management, climate and energy issues, crop management and integrated pest management as well as post harvest and logistics and knowledge transfer.

"The Department for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands strongly supports the efforts of the Green Farming programme to strengthen ties between the Netherlands and Kenya," says Hans Wolff of the embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, office of the Ministry of Economic Affairs who is also an agricultural counsellor.

He added that The Netherlands government has development funds available to lift agricultural production in Kenya.

Before the workshop at Naromoru River Lodge, the delegation visited many farms in Timau and Nanyuki including the East African Growers Group, Kisima and Homegrown.

The International companies that participated in the Green Farming programme included Anthura, AVAG, Celtic Koeling, DLV Plant and Flora life Europe.

Others were Frigo Breda, Horticoop BV, Ludvig Svensson, NL EVD International, Wellant College and WUR among many others.

