



## IPR and Food Security a Perspective from Developing Countries Farmers

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Protection for Farmers and Growers  
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## Horticulture - a short intro

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- ..a rapidly growing high value agriculture in Africa: Morocco, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda...Fruits, vegetable and flowers
- Kenya and South Africa –atleast 1 billion USD annual exportsAnd much more in domestic and regional trade
  - Rapidly growing...in Kenya about 14% per annum



## Kenya hort at a glance

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- 4.5 million people involved, direct and indirect (11% of Kenya population)
  - Domestic and export:
    - By volume: 95% domestic/regional trade, 5% export
    - By value: domestic 65%, export 35%
    - Exports – 1 billion US\$ (50 - 50 flowers and fruits/veg)
    - Fruits Veg for exports –70% produced by smallholders (about 350 mil US\$)
    - Basis of smallholder participation on the value chain:
      - Capacity to meet international standards, and uniformity partly created by IPR



## Food Security Dimension

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- Reality 1:
  - Land sizes are shrinking in Africa, especially in areas with higher water availability. Average land holding in Kenya is 2.5 acres, and down to 1 acre in high potential areas
- Reality 2:
  - Farming is still the main source of livelihood in many developing countries
    - Jobs from industrialization or services are limited, agric is still the economic basis (except in a few mining countries)
    - Food, medical care and school fees – three key costs of rural people
    - Reality 1 + Reality 2 = High value agriculture
  - For food security farmers need to maximize on revenue per unit area
    - A case of tomatoes vs staple such as maize or cassava to a farmer with only 1 acre of land
    - Food security not Food self sufficiency. – Food in the pocket, not in the granary
- Small - scale farmers are VERY rational. Markets must work, for food production to be a food security tool



## What's IPR about this?

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- To produce for a demanding market, a uniform and quality product is necessary
  - e.g. Kenya green beans –uniform texture, predictable taste, from 150,000 farmers
    - Uniform seeds
- For competitiveness –productivity is key.
  - Superior breeds. No GM as yet
- Quick adaptation to new varieties, as market tastes change
  - Eg flower industry, especially roses



## Experience with IPR so far - Kenya Hort

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- Enhanced Capacity to access markets and improvement in productivity
- Significant domestic varieties development
  - Local and regional markets
  - Over - dependence on import varieties for export veges and flowers
- Huge royalties payments
  - About 2 - 5% of value of produce
    - In Kenya –10 - 20 million USD annually from flowers only,
    - Enough to support vibrant breeding research in Kenya, now supporting research in developed countries



## Way Forward -

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- IPR is an important tool in producers in developing countries
  - For food security
    - IPR promotes innovation, and tech transfer to developing countries
    - For Market Access
  
- Needed:
  - A mechanism for ensuring fair play between producers and breeders
    - Producers are KEY stakeholders in IPR, just like breeders (both have a lot to lose if the mechanism doesn't work)
    - Formal producer voice at UPOV?
    - Careful limitation of what is IPR?



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Thank - You

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