

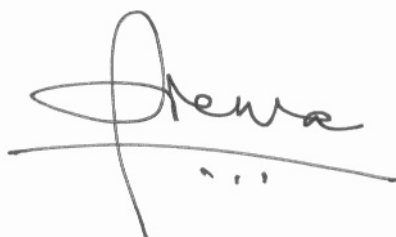
FOREWORD

In November 2005, the Rural Infrastructure and Agro-industries Division of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Special Advisory Services Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat agreed to work together to help strengthen human capacities in horticultural chain management in East and Southern Africa in response to needs expressed by member countries of that region. Formal agreements were established with the University of Pretoria, South Africa, for the development and implementation of a ‘Train the Trainers’ programme. The core curriculum of the programme focused on practical approaches to assuring the safety and quality of horticultural produce and on efficient organisation of the supply chain in order to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and farmers in domestic and regional markets. The training programme was held at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, in June 2006 and drew participant trainers from nine countries in the East and Southern African region. This training package has been produced as a direct result of that programme.

The training package consists of a theoretical manual and a practical manual. The practical manual is designed to complement the theoretical manual and to provide the trainer with simple practical tasks that reinforce and enhance comprehension of theoretical training. The whole package is structured to provide the trainer with sufficient technical background and reference materials to allow him/her to customise training in accordance with the needs of the target group to be trained.

It is hoped that this training package will stimulate improvements in fresh produce supply chains across the region, leading to safer produce of higher quality and to better economic returns for SMEs and small-scale producers.

FAO and the Commonwealth Secretariat welcome feedback from the users of this training package. Comments and critiques, as well as contributions on the contents, will help to improve future editions. Comments should be e-mailed to rosa.rolle@fao.org and t.williams@commonwealth.int.



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