

# NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024

---



## ISSUE 2 2024

---

UGANDA FLOWERS EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

[info@ufeā.co.ug](mailto:info@ufeā.co.ug)/[ufeā@ufeā.co.ug](mailto:ufeā@ufeā.co.ug)/[www.ufeā.co.ug](http://www.ufeā.co.ug)

+256 39 3263321

## ED'S MESSAGE

Dear Esteemed Members and stakeholders,

I am pleased to invite you to issue 2 of UFEA Newsletter. In this issue, you will be informed and updated about the on-going activities at the Secretariat.

Please be encouraged to continue using the QR code/ the Uganda flowers catalogue (by scanning the QR code using your smart phone camera or smart scanner or QR scanner options on your smart phone settings) on your letterheads, e-mail signatures, packaging. This is the quickest way to create awareness about the flower industry and the best practices highlighted by individual farms.

In this issue are updates on lobby and advocacy efforts with government and agencies; new partnership brought on board, progress achieved and on-going efforts. Negotiations with the union update and up-coming bio-control project and trainings organized by the Secretariat.

## CONTENTS

**ED's message**

**New Partnerships created**

**Phytosanitary Compliance/EU Regulations**

**Environmental compliance**

**Capacity building**

**Employers and Union Negotiations**

**Upcoming Events**

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS CREATED

The Board on its sitting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 recognized the stressful financial situation of the Association and considered looking out for possible avenues to raise more funds. Immediate idea was to contact input dealers who benefit in their business directly from UFEA in that, UFEA office is issuing recommendation letters to MAAIF for import permits for them to import agro-chemicals under the concession arrangement between UFEA and MAAIF.

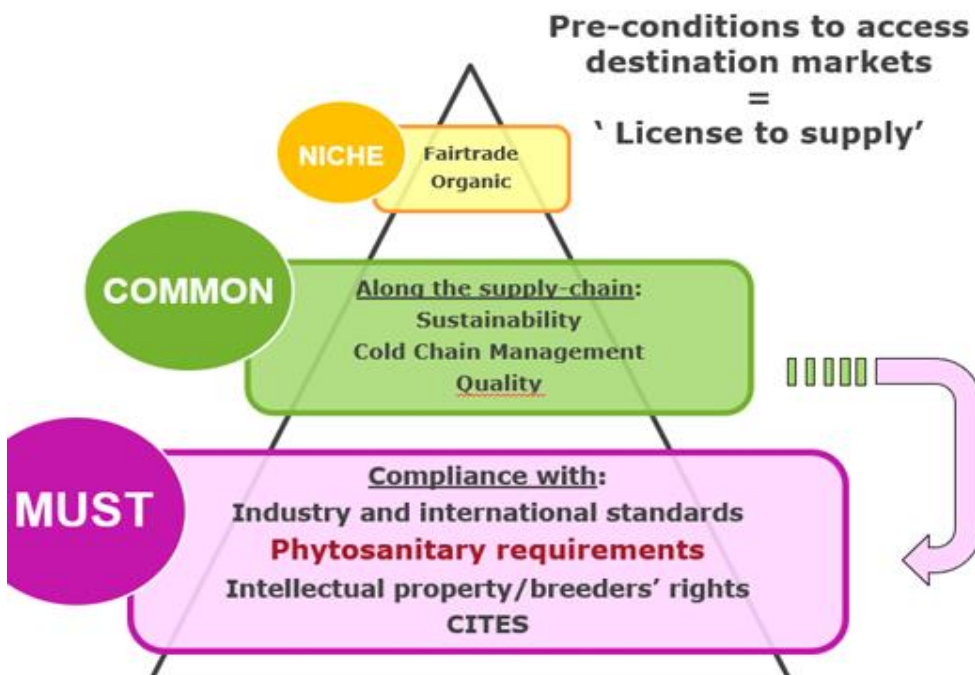
Three (3) companies were contacted to make a small contribution to UFEA and they have all accepted to contribute annually.

## PHYTOSANITARY COMPLIANCE

### NEW EU REGULATIONS

#### On False codling moth (FCM)

On 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024, UNION Fleurs in collaboration with COLEAD organised a webinar to create awareness on EU's preparation process to introduce special phytosanitary requirements for the import into the EU of cut roses from Africa due to risks related to *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (False Codling Moth / FCM)- (presentation attached to the newsletter)



**Expected timeline for the entry into force of the additional requirements on export countries:**

- ✓ May-June: consultations on the draft EU Regulation (Have your say and WTO)
- ✓ (possibly) July: Formal adoption of the special measures by the EU
- ✓ (possibly) September: publication of the EU Regulation in the EU Official Journal
- ✓ **Enforcement 6 months after publication → expected Q1 2025**

**What is at stake for exports of cut roses from Africa?**

- Intensified pressure on phytosanitary controls systems at export and at destination
- Deterioration of exporting countries' reputational risk: the efficient management of phytosanitary issues at origin is evaluated and rewarded by destination markets at country-level (not at the level of individual operators)

UFEA is working in collaboration with MAAIF and 2 cutting farms to develop a dossier for export of additional products as cuttings to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE****National Environment Act and related regulations**

Recently, the print media has been reporting increased activities of NEMA aimed at ensuring no further degradation of wetlands. The media usually covers enforcement activities that include eviction of people noted to be operating in wetlands. The need to comply with National Environment Management regulations is a mandatory requirement by government and is as well minimum requirement set by all private market standards such as MPS and Fairtrade. For developers including flower farms, the level of Compliance with national environment laws varies among the members. The heightened enforcement initiatives by NEMA across the country should require farms that are not regulated by NEMA to take the proactive steps to be regulated; start by taking initial steps in seeking for licensing by NEMA.

As environmental compliance requirements are getting tougher by the day it is imperative that all farms are intentional about fully complying with national regulations to avoid likely disruptions to operations in the event that regulatory authority (NEMA) made an unannounced site visit and you have no permits, or reports to show that you are working on complying.

**Water Act of Uganda - Water Abstraction**

One of the objectives of National Water Act of Uganda is to promote the rational management and use of the waters of Uganda. The Act regulates water to be used for particular purposes such as is the case with commercial agricultural enterprises like flower farms. The MPS GAP standard requirement 2.16j states, that valid permits/licenses are present at the company as it is a requirement.

We urge farms that may not have water abstraction permits to undertake the process to get a permit. This will ensure compliance with National Regulations as well as the Market Access Standards.

Additionally, it should be noted that acquiring water abstraction permits for your facility currently requires a water source protection plan as a prerequisite. Only one farm has made significant headway in developing a Water Source protection plan for their water source. In case of support regarding development of a water source protection plan please notify UFEA.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

### i) PSFU Policy and Advocacy Training 17th to 18th June 2024

UFEA attended the two-day training (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024) organised by PSFU. The major objective of the training was to enhance skills of business associations to effectively lobby for conducive/enabling environments for their businesses. The training on policy and advocacy was identified as the main training need for associations and corporate members during a needs assessment conducted among its members.

Effective Public Policy Advocacy aimed at improved business environment, is a critical need for Private Sector since it is central to growing the economy of Uganda

### Take-aways/Lessons learnt

- Public Policy Advocacy must be evidence based hence the need to invest getting relevant data
- Need to identify where you have your strengths and put that at the forefront.
- Issue you are advocating for should be of a public nature (of interest to government) and also exploit government programs to facilitate your advocacy plans.
- For each of the factors you are advocating for, give the policy proposal (what is it you want government to do?)
- It is important to form alliances with other sub-systems to come up with collective actions



**ii) FUE Industrial Relations Clinic - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

UFEA attended an Industrial Relations Clinic on 27th June 2024. The clinic was facilitated by Federation of Uganda Employers.

**Procedural fairness**

Is about the right to be heard and entails the following principles:

- lack of biasness in decision making,
- fair hearing to person affected,
- evidence-based decision making
- Right to be informed
- Right to be represented

**Substantive fairness**

Is about facts of the matter reported and it entails the following principles:

- Valid reason
- Reason based on facts
- Fair application of disciplinary procedures
- Relying on expert evidence
- Courts and tribunals examining whether disciplinary measures fit the crime



### iii) Insect Resistance Management Training - 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 (*presentation attached*)

On 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024, training facilitators from Mara LifeSciences (Kenya) trained thirty (30) farm representatives on Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Resistance Management. The Trainees were awarded Certificates for Participation.

**Pesticide resistance:** is defined as the naturally occurring heritable ability of some pest biotypes within a pest population to survive a pesticide treatment that should, under normal conditions, effectively control that pest population = insensitivity, tolerance.

**Cross resistance:** Resistance of a pest to two or more pesticides (of same MOA) due to the same physiological mechanism of resistance.

**Multiple resistance:** possession of two or more different mechanisms of resistance = resistance to pesticides of different MOA's.

### Resistance Development



Can be traced to the genetic variability that occurs in any population of living organisms coupled with the process of natural selection. Gene already present or random mutation during the spray



When an external stress is applied to a population (e.g. application of a pesticide), those individuals with the genetic make-up (genotype) best suited to survive and reproduce despite the stress will increase in numbers, while those that cannot will decrease = survival of the fittest.

### Way forward

- Basic training required
- Need to conduct trials at farm level
- Need to visit farms for knowledge/experience sharing
- The need to form a technical working group



## EMPLOYERS AND UNION NEGOTIATIONS

One meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**Employers Representatives received a fresh mandate** and position on increments, following consultations with individual farms. The only pending discussion is now the salary increment for rose farms, whereby union wants 7000 per month and you offered 5000. Once this is concluded, then discussions for cutting farm increments will be tabled. Next meeting is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> 2024.

## UPCOMING IN JULY 2024

### FIRST LOCAL MEETING OF THE FUTURE - PROOF AND BIOCONTROL BASED CHRYSANTHEMUM PRODUCTION PROJECT

The Future-proof and biocontrol-based chrysanthemum production project will have the first local meeting in Uganda on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024, hosted by Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute Kabanyoro.

The project will contribute to a decrease in the use of pesticides in the East-African and Dutch value chains of floriculture crops particularly Chrysanthemums. Consequently, this will increase the sustainability of the East-African and Dutch floriculture value chain. The partners on the project include: University of Wageningen - UR Glasshouse Horticulture, all cuttings farms, UFEA, MPS, MAAIF, Makerere, NARO among others. Wageningen UR Glasshouse Horticulture is the implementing research institution for this project.

**PILOT TARGET:** Cuttings farms



## EMBRACING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FOR GOOD BUSINESS PRACTICES TRAINING

In today's competitive Ugandan business landscape, strong corporate governance is no longer an option, it's a necessity in most business transactions. This workshop addresses this critical need by equipping senior leaders with the knowledge and tools to build transparent, accountable, and risk-resilient organizations, ultimately leading to increased competitiveness, investor confidence, and sustainable growth for Ugandan businesses.

UFEA in collaboration with the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE) have organized a fact structured 1-day workshop on embracing corporate governance for good business practices. This program is designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools to elevate your company's performance, transparency, and long-term success.

**DATE:** Registration still on-going

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** Senior Managers, Board Members, MDs, General Managers, Compliance Managers.

### Your Feedback column

<https://forms.gle/QgXyfNdwb9wMLibJ7>

*Using QR Scanner, smart scanner option or normal camera on your phone.*



Figure 1: Steps on how to scan QR Code