

#### Beneficiary

National and regional authorities and the private sector across East and Central Africa

#### Led by

CABI, and partners, FAO, IPPC and KEPHIS

#### Time-frame

May 2008 – November 2010

#### STDF funding

US\$763,880 (total project value US\$851,240)



## CENTRE OF PHYTOSANITARY EXCELLENCE IS PROTECTING AGRICULTURE AND SUPPORTING TRADE ACROSS EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

### The safe trade gap

Across East and Central Africa, crop losses during production and post-harvest have challenged the region's food safety and security and the ability of countries to compete in global horticultural trade. Plugging the capacity gap on plant health and preventing the spread of plant pests was vital to protect agriculture and natural resources. At the same time, the IPPC's capacity evaluation tool showed that national and regional authorities were unable to meet international phytosanitary standards – a longer term regional approach was needed.

### Partnership approach

The Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence (COPE), set up in 2010, is going strong as a regional centre without borders and operates across East and Central Africa. Set up by CABI and partners, FAO, IPPC and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS), the Secretariat is based in Kenya and run by KEPHIS and the University of Nairobi with a wide public-private partnership on the Advisory Board. COPE's mission is to provide phytosanitary capacity building services to clients in the public and private sectors, so that countries are better able to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests and meet the phytosanitary requirements of international trade. To deliver on its mission, COPE's regional network is expanding to include universities, regional economic bodies, technical agencies and development partners.

### Results

- COPE's updated online platform, [www.africacope.org](http://www.africacope.org), features training modules, the latest plant health resources and publications and information on upcoming events.
- A fully equipped Training Unit offers five short, in-service courses, three university diplomas on phytosanitary measures and customized programmes to plug capacity gaps.

- Nearly 1,000 plant inspectors and phytosanitary managers from National Plant Protection Organizations and farmer groups have been trained across 15 countries. For example, COPE trained over 100 scouts in the Ugandan flower sector and 10 inspectors. This has helped exports to the EU to continue thanks to a fall in interceptions on roses due to plant pests.
- A Pest Risk Analysis Unit is in place with a network of regional pest risk analysts that supports countries and regional bodies, such as COMESA and EAC, to update pest lists for priority commodities.

### Sustaining impact

- COPE's public-private partnership is self-sustaining, having set up a not-for-profit business model and developed its trademark COPE logo and marketing strategy.
- A fee-based approach is in place for COPE to deliver consultancy services and capacity building, with yearly training targets that include reaching 350 people in 2016-17.
- COPE hosted the first International Phytosanitary Conference in Africa in 2016 – funded from its training programme. The regional dialogue brought together 100 African and global stakeholders to share knowledge and good practice on current plant health topics from food security to trade facilitation.

*“Targeted training by COPE for phytosanitary inspectors and the private sector helped upgrade knowledge and skills in Uganda to better protect against plant pests. The outcome is a tremendous reduction in non-compliance to phytosanitary trade requirements for flower exports to the EU”.*

**Tumubaine Ephrance, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda**

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