

# Policy Dialogue on Food Safety



A panel of discussion on food safety to find ways on how to front policies on the same most especially in fresh fruits and vegetable sub-sector. (From Left. Dr. Caroline Nankinga (MAAIF), Mr. James Mureithi (Control Union) Mr. Samuel G.L Balagadde (HF Chairperson), Mr. Julius Mbabazi (Chemiphar) Dr. Mulebeke Robert (Kyambogo University), Magume R. Steven (MAAIF), Kawube Geofrey (Gulu University), Mukalazi Francis (MTIC).

## HORTIFRESH HOSTED A POLICY DIALOGUE ON FOOD SAFETY

HortiFresh in partnership with GIZ, MAAIF, and HortiFresh Members organized a food safety dialogue on Friday, March 22nd, 2024.

**Objectives:**

- To discuss matters critical for local food safety campaigns for FFV
- To discuss strategies for HortiFresh members to get Voluntary market certifications like Global GAP, GRASP, etc.
- To discuss pathways to strengthen the market presence of HortiFresh members.

The discussions highlighted practical insights in food safety and adherence to quality standards. These included highlights on the role of laboratory infrastructure, logistics and cold chain custody, and devising ways to develop the local, regional, and international markets.

The HortiFresh Association impressed its esteemed members with a captivating second Annual General Meeting held at Fairway Hotel, following the successful debut event at Serena Hotel in Kampala in 2021. Under the guidance of our acting chairperson, Mr. Samuel G L Balagadde, the Board unanimously resolved to maintain the current board members in accordance with the Articles of Association until the upcoming AGM scheduled for November 2024, sparking excitement for another year of significant progress.

HortiFresh celebrates its remarkable journey since inception, marked by pioneering initiatives and transformative partnerships that embody our commitment to excellence. Among our numerous milestones, we proudly highlight:

- Attaining the esteemed position as the apex body for growers and exporters of fresh fruits and vegetables in Uganda, uniting all associations under one umbrella. This unified approach enables us to effectively address sector challenges, paving the way for increased revenues and heightened export volumes.
- Forging strategic alliances with both local and international organizations to champion the promotion of sustainable practices, market access, and technological innovations.
- Expanding our reach from Kampala to Gulu in Northern Uganda, etc.

## HORTIFRESH AT ITS 2ND AGM

# Annual General Meeting

## ➤➤➤ RECAPS FROM THE 2ND AGM

### Chairperson

Mr. Samuel Balagadde, the acting Board chairperson, extended gratitude to the outgoing Chairperson, Ms. Caroline Komuhangi, who has transitioned to other responsibilities. He informed the participants about the successful reconciliation with the two associations HORTEXA and UFVEPA, highlighting the signing of the MoU to solidify our relationship.

Providing statistical insights, he underscored a notable trend in the growth of fresh fruits and vegetables exports since the establishment of HortiFresh, soaring from USD 36.1 million to USD 86 million in 2023.

Emphasizing the importance of inclusive engagement, he also stressed the necessity of involving all stakeholders, including the media, to collectively address sector challenges and chart a path toward sustainable progress.



Mr. Samuel G L Balagadde (Chairperson)

## UP COMING EVENTS

**We are preparing a training in good agricultural practices within the University students in the early weeks of April.**

**Compliance Monitoring at among farmer groups and exporters.**

### Executive Director



Mr. Fred Zake, the Executive Director of the association, extended his heartfelt gratitude to the numerous stakeholders and dedicated members who have been steadfast supporters of HortiFresh over the years, as well as those who have recently joined.

He updated members on significant developments since the previous AGM, including the relocation of the Secretariat to a more accessible location on Balintuma Road in Mengo and the establishment of a new office in Gulu District, in Northern Uganda.

He encouraged exporters to explore opportunities in sourcing produce from Northern Uganda for both regional and international markets.

Addressing the challenge of Ugandan exporters selling their produce in low-end markets, Mr. Zake announced HortiFresh's partnership with Control Union to facilitate Global GAP and relevant standards certification for selected members.

This certification will enable them to access higher-end and more lucrative markets. Additionally, he shared news of collaboration with Trade Mark on a proposal aimed at streamlining export procedures for fresh fruits and vegetables to South Sudan and the DRC, including the provision of cold chain services.

Mr. Zake also urged youth and women to actively engage in the horticulture value chain and the broader agriculture sector, highlighting various opportunities available through initiatives supported by international financial institutions.

### Other Key points to note

- The members agreed to retain the existing board structure until the next AGM as they consider making it complete and balanced, following the resignation of the chairperson due to other duties.
- Despite steady progress in daily operations, it was revealed that the association still operates at a deficit due to limited resources and the failure of some members to renew their memberships.
- HortiFresh plans to offer various services in line with fresh fruits and vegetable (FFV) exports at the airport and in regional centers yet to be determined (ZARDIs).
- It was also revealed that HortiMAP project, under TechnoServe, has shown interest in facilitating policy dialogues aimed at improving the horticultural sector.
- Mr. Ssenyondo Andrew, Director of SAK Agro Produce, appreciated the work done by HortiFresh and the services offered to them as members. He asked the association to continue advocating for policies and services that can create a conducive environment for sector growth.



Mr. Ssenyondo Andrew (SAK) giving feedback at the AGM.

# Digitizing FFV Exports

## ➤➤➤ DIGITIZING INSPECTION THROUGH RUSH PROJECT

The RUSH project, led by SwissContact in collaboration with MAAIF and HortiFresh, is revolutionizing Uganda's inspection process from packhouse to the exit point through digitization. With implementation currently at 80%, the project has actively involved a majority of exporters to achieve its objectives.

This innovative system empowers users, especially export companies, to seamlessly process consignments from the packhouse to exit points. The platform's primary aim is to streamline physical inspection processes, simplify traceability procedures, and enhance documentation and data collection efficiency.



## THE FUTURE WE SEE!!

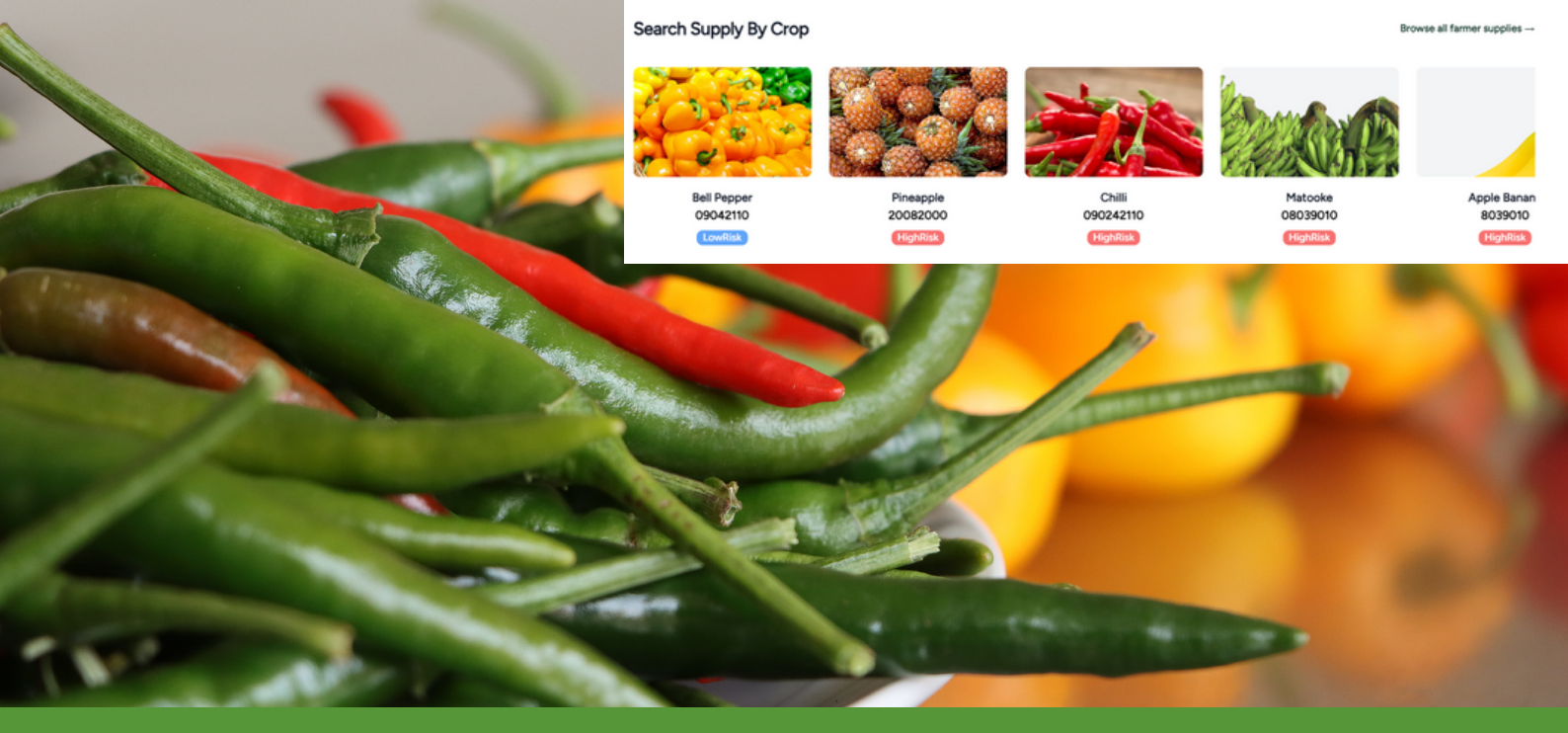
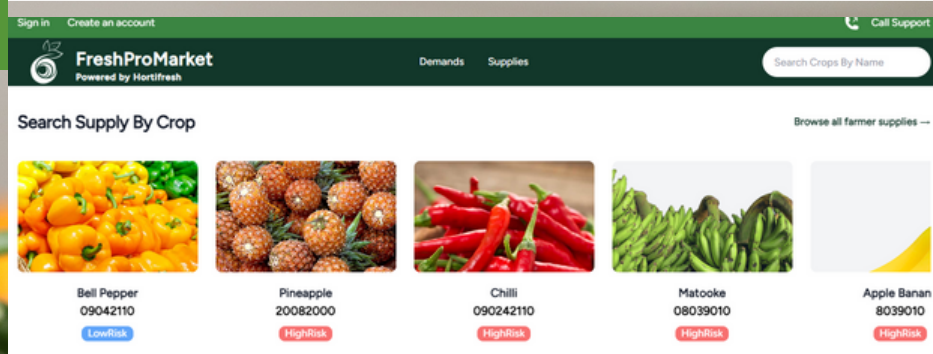
**In envisioning the future, HortiFresh's digital strides promise transformative change. Through initiatives like Re-Digitizing Uganda's Inspection Process and FreshProMarket, they pioneer efficiency and accessibility in agricultural trade. With seamless data updates and online market access, they propel Uganda towards a tech-savvy agricultural sector. A digitally empowered ecosystem where farmers and buyers thrive in an interconnected marketplace, fueling economic growth.**

## ➤➤➤ FRESHPROMARKET.COM

HortiFresh, under the NU-HortiMAP project of TechnoServe has launched an online platform called FreshProMarket, where suppliers can upload their produce for potential buyers and the buyer can upload their demands for potential suppliers.

The platform primarily targets producers in Northern Uganda and off-takers within the region and nearby countries, specifically South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, the platform is also open to other potential producers and off-takers around the country.

This is a cost-free interactive platform where users only need to create their accounts to sell or buy products. It is accessible at [www.freshpromarket.com](http://www.freshpromarket.com) and can also be accessed through [www.hortifreshffv.org](http://www.hortifreshffv.org).





Chemiphar (U) Limited is an analytical laboratory and inspection company, a private and independent Ugandan company, limited by shares, established in Uganda since 1998, under Certificate of Incorporation nr 39059.; has almost 25 years of experience in ensuring quality in diverse industries and products; employs 27 Ugandans, highly educated and trained (some in Europe) and professionals (chemists, microbiologists, agronomists, accountants); is internationally accredited since 2001

## Roles of Chemiphar in FFV Value Chain in Uganda

### 1. Product quality and Safety testing

- Pesticide/herbicide residue compositions.
- Presence/absence of toxic substances.
- Presence/absence of germs/disease causing microorganisms.
- Nutritive value of fruits and vegetable.

### 3. Testing soil

- Soil sampling, Nutrient composition.
- Monitoring soil health properties (pH, EC & OC)
- Fertilizer application recommendations.
- Presence/absence of toxic substances, Evaluation of suitability of soil for specific crops.

### 5. Water testing for irrigation, spraying and cleaning.

- Component composition and physical qualities
- Presence / absence of heavy metals
- Presence / absence of germs / microorganisms
- Presence / absence of pests and germs
- Presence / absence of antibiotics

### 7. Water testing for irrigation, spraying and cleaning.

- Product sampling for quality control
- Disease and pest scouting
- Spraying regime monitoring
- Proper agronomic practices
- Pesticide withdraw period
- Proper harvesting and post-harvest techniques
- Product sorting and cleaning
- Suitability and hygiene of the pack houses

### 2. Testing fertilizers and agrochemicals used

- Component composition/elemental analysis.
- Presence or absence active ingredients.
- Presence or absence of toxic substances.
- Recommendations for use of fertilizer and agrochemicals.
- Conformity to set standards.
- Nutrient ratios.

### 4. Hygiene Monitoring

- Working surfaces (processing tables).
- Control of pests and diseases measures, Worker hygiene and worker hygiene training.
- Temperature controls verification.
- Adherence to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

### 6. Seed testing

- Representative seed sampling.
- Germination potential.
- Moisture content.
- Purity.
- Prevent losses for poor quality seed.

### 8. Training farmers

- Use and proper handling of agro chemicals
- Use and proper handling of fertilizer
- Pest and disease scouting and control
- Proper post-harvest handling techniques
- Environmental monitoring

## Contact info.



Plot 224-226,  
Kyeyune Rd,  
Kiggundu  
Zone, Kansanga,  
P.O. Box 25525,  
Kampala, Uganda



Tel.  
+256(0)392-268832  
Mob.  
+256709379559



Email.  
[info@chemiphar.net](mailto:info@chemiphar.net)



Website.  
[www.chemiphar.net](http://www.chemiphar.net)



Control Union a certification body responsible for Global GAP certification.

Global GAP certification is a farm assurance program that translates consumer requirements into Good Agricultural Practice. The certification help producers meet the demand for high-quality, sustainable food and allows retailers and consumers to choose quality produce with confidence.

It is internationally recognized and comes with a lot of benefits among which includes new market opportunities, production process improvements, cost optimization etc.

## Requirements for Global G.A.P Certification

### 1. Good Agricultural Practices

Farms must implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) to ensure the safety and quality of their products

### 2. Environmental Protection

Farms must take measures to protect the environment, such as reducing water usage and minimizing the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

### 3. Traceability

Farms must have a traceability system in place to track their products from the farm to the consumer.

### 4. Worker Health and Safety

Farms must ensure the health and safety of their workers by providing appropriate training and protective equipment.

### 5. Animal Welfare

Farms that raise animals must comply with animal welfare standard

### Contact info.

- P.O.BOX 23602, Kampala Uganda Ganesh Plaza - Entebbe Road, Level 4 Room 2 & 3
- Nansubuga Shirat Control Union Uganda +256 (0)756040534
- [www.controlunion.com](http://www.controlunion.com)

# Stakeholders and Partnerships

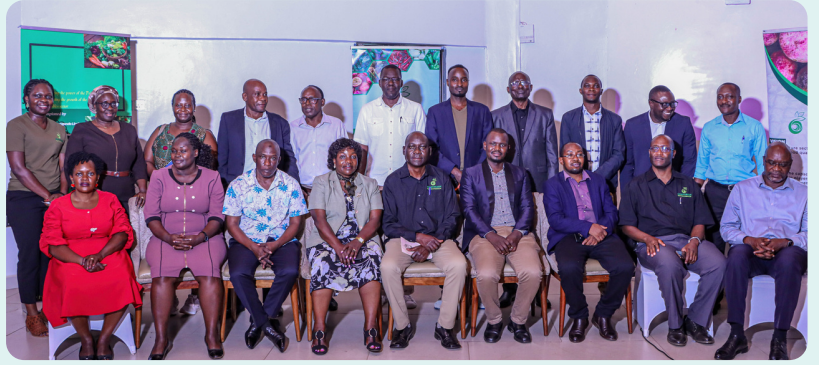
Warm greetings from the HortiFresh!

We express our deepest gratitude for your steadfast support, which has been the cornerstone of our achievements in advancing sustainable development within the fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV) sector. With your continued dedication, we are poised to achieve even greater heights. Looking forward, our commitment to fostering sustainable horticultural development remains steadfast.

Together, with your invaluable partnership, we are confident in our ability to surmount obstacles, harness emerging trends, and effect tangible change in the FFV sector. Our collective efforts will continue to empower the value chain actors in the sector ensuring its resilience and prosperity for generations to come.



# Pictorial



[www.hortifreshffv.org](http://www.hortifreshffv.org)



Plot 669 Balintuma  
Road Mengo-  
Kampala



0393248395



[admin@hortifreshffv.org](mailto:admin@hortifreshffv.org)



@hortifreshffv



Hortifresh Association Limited