

“Diversifying Food Systems: Horticultural Innovations and Learning for Improved Nutrition and Livelihood in East Africa”
(HORTINLEA)

JOINT INTERIM REPORT
(SP14)

01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014
FORMAL REPORT



Description of activities/milestones
SP14: Sustainable Capacity Building in Research (Output 6)
CB 1 Monitoring system is developed and criteria communicated
CB 2 Profiling of incoming PhD students
CB 3 Establishment of internet platform
CB 4 Organization of annual summer school
CB 5 Training opportunities for PhD students
CB 6 Participation of PhD students in international conferences
CB 7 Evaluation of capacity building

A meeting between SP 14 and the subproject “Dissemination” (SP13) was held to develop a program for cooperation between the two SPs in activities relevant to both SP missions. In particular, cooperation on development of the website and intranet and an online learning and sharing platform (**CB 3**) were discussed and agreed upon. The website was established with the contribution of SP14 in mid-March 2014.

Building upon the Researcher Development Framework (RDF) adopted as the framework of the Graduate School and a first training needs assessment conducted among HORTINLEA PhD students and the wider researcher network, the course content for the summer school was conceptualized and potential lecturers identified (**CB 4** Summer School). In addition, new PhD students will complete the RDF questionnaire in order to assess and establish their initial training needs (**CB 2**) for the next summer school (2015). Additional tools were developed to support the assessment of changes in capacity building processes and outcomes, in particular the Personal Development Plan in view of evaluating students’ advancement (**CB 7**). In the course of the summer school 2014 a tool called “Capacity Snapshot” was tested to be used in further assessing personal scientific capacities as well as network building with a larger community.

In the frame of the HORTINLEA Graduate school, a first summer school (2014) was carried out from 4th to 12th September 2014 at Kenyatta University/Nairobi in combination with the HORTINLEA annual meeting 2014 (**CB 4**). In total, 26 PhD and 2 master students were trained in research design for social and natural scientists, in setting- up of experiments and conducting field surveys, statistics, indigenous vegetables and value chain analysis. Apart from one, all trainers were researchers from HORTINLEA subprojects. PhD students had prepared posters which they presented during the annual meeting to the wider researcher network of all subprojects. (CB 4 outcome). Another outcome regarding the graduate school was the decision taken at the annual meeting that PhD students will have the opportunity to publish their first paper (a literature review) with the African Journal of Horticultural Sciences. The journal’s editor was met during the meeting. Until the end of the reporting period 14 students had submitted their papers which are currently undergoing review.

Publications

About 24 papers have been submitted to peer reviewed journals and conferences or have been published during 2014. For example, a paper titled “African fermented foods and probiotics” was published in the International Journal of Food Microbiology. An additional 7 strategic papers were oriented towards decision makers. These works cover important aspects related to AIVs and food security, spread over the entire value chain.

Conferences

Consortium members presented HORTINLEA and their specific research topics at various conferences and lectures. Among others, the following conferences were attended: The ISHS Congress 2014 in Brisbane, Australia, the Tropentag 2014 in Prague, the ISSRM 2014 Conference in Hannover, The Africa Days of the BMBF. HORTINLEA was represented at the Summit for the International Year of Family Farming, organised by the FAO and Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development in Budapest and presented at the Global Food Symposium 2014 in Göttingen. Various members held seminars, workshops or paper and poster presentations on their specific research within HORTINLEA, either at their home universities, during the HORTINLEA Summer School or during a visit to a partner institutions. In some cases, the target audience were stakeholders in Kenya; for example in a public lecture and in a farmer training workshop that both took place in Kenya. In total, we record over 40 activities in this area.

Master and Bachelor theses

A total number of 14 Master and Bachelor theses have been developed within all subprojects. Capacity building measures beyond this include the involvement of undergraduate students, for example as enumerators or by giving trainings or seminars.