

Importance of the Tomato Value Chain in the Kenyan Economy

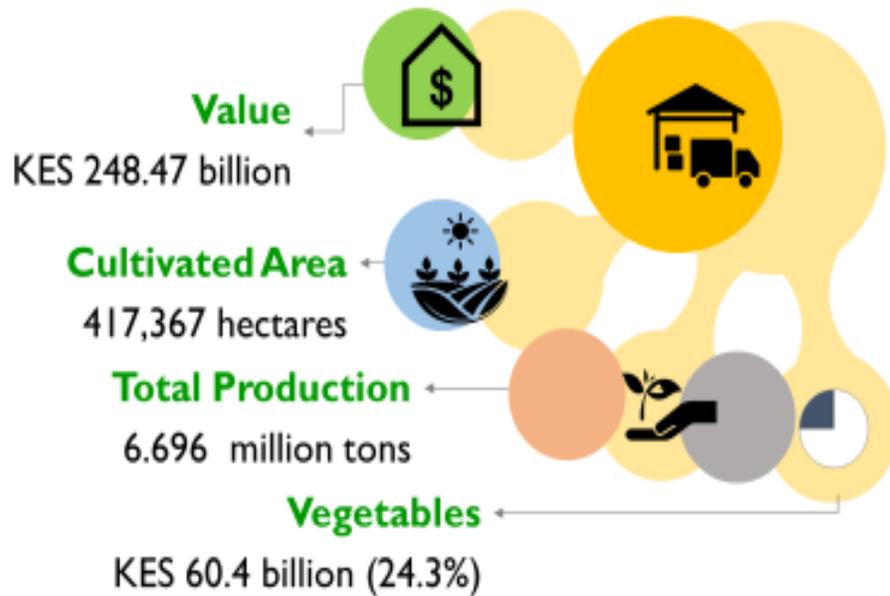
Tomato *Solanum lycopersicum* L. is the second most important exotic vegetable and is widely consumed in Kenya. It is high in nutraceutical value and is utilized fresh in salads or cooked in many local dishes and can also be processed to a range of value added products. Tomato accounted for 20 percent by value of the exotic vegetables in 2016 and was produced in an area of 20,011ha with an output of 341,026tons valued at KES 13.68 billion. Tomato production has potential for commercialization by small-holder farmers and other chain actors across gender divide. There has been an upsurge in tomato production trends over the years which can be attributed to increased volumes and better farm gate prices in the main producing counties which include Kirinyaga, Kajiado, Taita-Taveta, Laikipia, Bungoma, Trans-Nzoia among others. The increase in production can be attributed to enhanced irrigation in open field cultivation, expansion in green house production and spread of production in new frontiers. However, various constraints hamper tomato production. The prevalence of tomato leaf miner *Tuta absoluta* an important pest in tomato production, bacterial wilt and late blight are the major challenges faced by tomato farmers. Other pests and diseases that constrain production include Whitefly, borers, Fusarium wilt, Tomato spotted wilt virus, Tomato Yellow leaf Curl virus and Nematodes. Factors such as lack of appropriate Tomato varieties for specific zones tolerant to biotic and abiotic stresses, poor agronomic practices (Nutrient management, Water use efficiency), physiological disorders (Blossom end rot, sun-scald) and high postharvest losses also constrain tomato production. These challenges coupled with lack of value addition and marketing issues affect the profitability of tomato production.

Objectives of the Training

The purpose of the training is to provide Trainers of Trainers/farmer trainers/facilitators with knowledge and skills on how to facilitate and support FFF's for increased productivity through adoption of GAP. Specifically, the objectives of this training are:

1. Provide farmers trainers with relevant altitude, knowledge and skill in tomato farming as a business and market assessment techniques for market led production
2. Refresh farmer trainers'/facilitators' knowledge and skills in Tomato GAP including choice of appropriate varieties, clean seedling production and management of tomato crop in open field and greenhouse
3. Provide farmers trainers/facilitators with knowledge and skills in value addition at individual or group level as post-harvest tomato management
4. Provide farmer trainers with knowledge and skills in participatory techniques for effective facilitation of adult learning processes through FFBS's and develop inclusive stakeholder partnerships for sustainable up scaling of FFBS

Domestic Horticulture (2018)



Tomato Value Chains: Constraints at Input Node

