

Fresh Produce Standards and Market Preferences: Opportunities and Constraints - Zambia

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Present status of standards

- Exports and imports subject to SPS inspections
- SPS inspections determined by importing countries with reference to International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
- Standards for imports based on pest risk analysis which are regularly reviewed
- Conformity standards also done on demand

Present status of standards (2)

- Commercial exports need to meet additional standards;
- Exports to Europe require GlobalGap Standards;
- Additional standards required for exports to specific countries such as England, Switzerland, Holland
- Other standards based on lobbying for women working conditions, environment

Present status of standards (3)

- ZEGA has established code of practice based on GlobalGap;
- The ZEGA/NRDC was a private sector initiative to meet industry demands, but handed over to Government;
- Organic products- Organic Producers and Processors Association of Zambia (OPPAZ), 'Developed' Zambia Organic Standards to facilitate Honey, Vegetables etc for exports;
- Specialists available in inspections, research, teaching at both university and college levels;

Management of multiplicity of standards

- Global issue and national sector too small to influence anything
- ZEGA joined the Horticultural Council of Africa through which such issues are articulated;
- Locally the Zambia Bureau of Standards is the statutory body tasked with development of Standards;
- Though not much has been achieved

Regional collaboration

- Only regional collaboration is Horticultural Council of Africa through ZEGA membership
- This is in its infancy
- Stakeholders in process of establishing a broader based national organization for better regional coordination

Opportunities and constraints

- Standards providing opportunities for production and consumption of better quality fresh produce
- They are an inevitable extra cost for commercial producers
- They are a real barrier to smallholder participation in commercial exports

Thank you