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Horticulture: A Viable Option for the ACP?

Norman E. Looney
President of ISHS

6th Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for ACP Agriculture and Rural Development
CTA Headquarters, Wageningen, November 14, 2007

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"Nurturing and Nourishing the World's Poor: The Role of Horticulture in International Development"

Title of the presentation by Dr. Ismail Serageldin to the International Horticultural Congress, Toronto, Canada, August 2002*


*Acta Horticulturae 642:25-34. 2004



"Horticulture is unique in that it can directly address poverty and food security issues in both urban and rural areas of the developing world"

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SO WHAT IS HORTICULTURE?

- High value plant agriculture . . .
 - Labour and knowledge intensive
 - Often performed on small holdings
 - Often capital intensive (irrigation, crop production/protection chemicals, greenhouses, etc.)
 - High 'value-added' potential



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SO WHAT IS HORTICULTURE?

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- High value plant agriculture . . .
 - *But often constrained by inadequate infrastructure and support systems*
 - Roads, ports, airports
 - Producer cooperatives
 - Cool storage; packing and shipping facilities
 - Suppliers of seeds, chemicals, fertilizers
 - Agriculture colleges and extension services (knowledge support systems)

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WHAT IS HORTICULTURE?

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- Production of a Wide Range of High Value Crops. . .
 - Fruits and nuts
 - Deciduous tree and vine fruits in temperate and sub-tropical climates
 - Tropical and sub-tropical fruits (usually ever-green trees)
 - Berries
 - Nut crops (temperate to tropical)
 - Vegetables
 - Leafy vegetables
 - Edible stems and flowers (asparagus, broccoli, etc)
 - Root and tuber crops
 - Vegetable fruits (tomatoes, squash, etc.)
 - Mushrooms




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WHAT IS HORTICULTURE?

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- Production of a Wide Range of High Value Plants (continued)
 - Ornamental horticulture
 - Potted plants and cut flowers
 - Nursery production of trees and shrubs for landscaping
 - Designing and managing parks and gardens (urban horticulture)
 - Turf grass
 - Aromatic and medicinal plants
 - Culinary herbs
 - Cultivated/collected medicinal plants





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WHY HORTICULTURE?

- Poverty reduction bias
 - Labor intensive
 - Small scale
- Huge emerging domestic market
 - Economic growth
 - Urbanization
 - Emerging marketing chains
- Improved benefit/cost ratio (ICARDA data):
 - 0.9–1.5: lentils, barley, wheat
 - 1.5–2.4: olive, almond, pistachio, mint, oregano, cumin, anise, onion



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WHY HORTICULTURE?

Horticulture crops fit well with the 'Local production – Wealth creation – Risk reduction' concept

Local production of horticultural crops

- Improves livelihoods
- Leads to broad-based economic development
- Slows rural-urban migration
- Employs and empowers
- Improves family and community nutrition



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WHY HORTICULTURE?

Horticulture:
An engine for economic growth

Horticulture:

- Creates jobs
- Generates higher incomes
- Alleviates malnutrition
- Improves learning capacities
- Improves human health





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Horticulture Supports Health and Prosperity




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Some Faces of Horticulture in Developing Countries




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INDIGENOUS PLANTS/CROPS

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DIVERSE AND NUTRITIOUS DIETS

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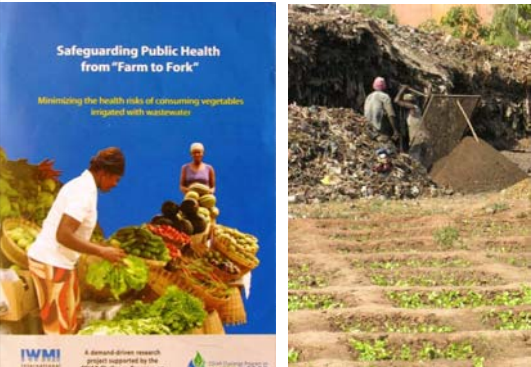
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**URBAN/PERI-URBAN
HORTICULTURE**

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Issues in Urban Horticulture



**Safeguarding Public Health
from "Farm to Fork"**

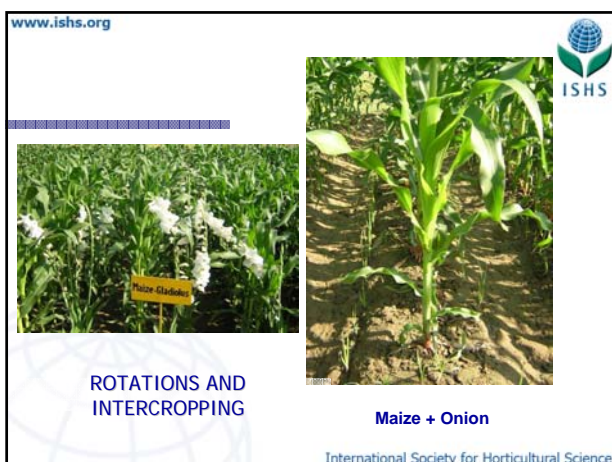
Minimizing the health risks of consuming vegetables
irrigated with wastewater

IWMI
International Water Management Institute

A demand-driven research
project supported by the
CGIAR Challenge Program on
Water and Food

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CANNING AND RETAIL PACKAGING

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The Promise of the Global Horticulture Initiative



www.globalhort.org

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GlobalHort seeks to:

www.globalhort.org

Focus development partner resources ...

- to network the world's horticultural R&D organizations for collective action ...
- to improve economic opportunities and food security for the poor ... through new and improved horticultural systems



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www.globalhort.org

GlobalHort Core Activities

1. *Advocating and lobbying for horticulture for development*
2. *Networking fragmented horticulture R&D capacities*
3. *Coordinating training, education and capacity building*
4. *Strategic funding of research for development projects*



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CTA, ISHS and the Global Horticulture Initiative

- *GlobalHort complements, and can facilitate the ISHS 'outreach' program*
- *CTA is a valued partner*



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CTA, ISHS and the Global Horticulture Initiative

– *ISHS, through strategic partnerships, aims to:*

- *Better reach and connect the global horticulture research for development community*
- *Hold more ISHS symposia relevant to the Millennium Development Goals*
- *Hold more symposia in developing countries*

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CTA, ISHS and the Global Horticulture Initiative

ISHS

– ISHS, through strategic partnerships, aims to:

- *Enrich its publications and horticultural science knowledge database (see www.pubhort.org) with content relevant to tropical and subtropical horticulture and to diversifying smallholder agriculture*

www.globalhort.org

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THE ISHS MEMBERSHIP BASE

ISHS


- 7200+ Individual Members in 143 countries
- 157 Organization Members
- 49 Country Members on all continents

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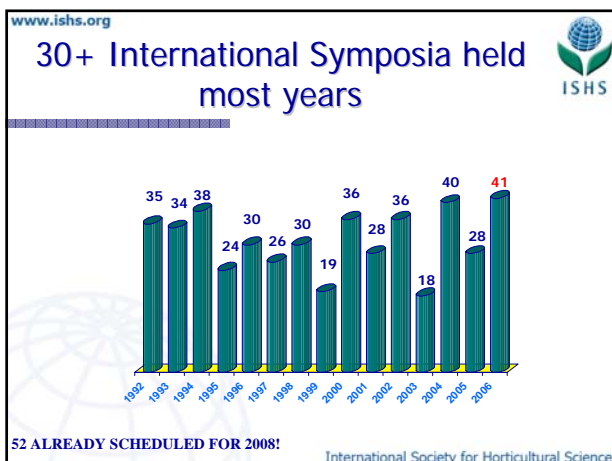
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The ISHS Science Program




- 10 crop-related Sections
- 14 discipline-related Commissions
- 100+ Working Groups
- 30 - 40 International Symposia / year

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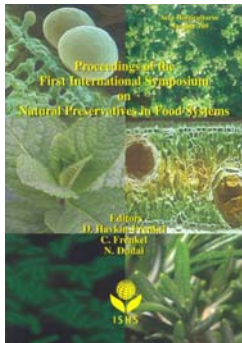


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What would life be without
Family, Friends and
Horticulture?!




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ISHS and GlobalHort appreciate
your support!



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