DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

The challenge is both to produce more fruit and vegetables, and to do it sustainably. A sustainable horticultural production system with an ecosystem approach is necessary to cope with an increasingly degraded environment and uncertainties resulting from climate change, while taking into consideration social, political, economic and environmental impacts.

The main purpose is to support the transition from subsistence farming to income-generating agriculture by adding value to products to achieve greater returns for producers, while catalyzing public-private linkages between producers, processors, supply chain actors and government support and regulatory mechanisms.

Increasing the availability of high quality and safe horticultural produce by developing improved crop management practices (e.g. good agricultural practices, integrated production and pest management, integrated soil health management, organic farming) for sustainable and environmentally friendly horticultural crop production systems.

Promoting neglected and underutilized horticultural crops within distinct agro-ecological zones which contribute to food and nutrition security and improved livelihoods.

Supporting knowledge exchange and capacity building through national, regional and international fora, and technical assistance projects.