

April 2011

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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
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联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
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des
Nations
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et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
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организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON BANANAS AND
TROPICAL FRUITS**

FIFTH SESSION

Yaoundé, Cameroon, 3 – 5 May 2011

**REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL FRUITS
NETWORK (TFNET)
DECEMBER 2009 – APRIL 2011**

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December 2009 – April 2011**

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INTRODUCTION

International Tropical Fruits Network was established under the auspices of the FAO in 2000, with the main objective of enhancing cooperation among members to address issues involving production, consumption and trade of tropical fruits.

TFNet is governed by a Board of Trustees which is elected every 3 years during the General Assembly . The Board also meets annually.

For the period 2009 to 2012, the activities of TFNet are guided by a strategic direction which was formulated in a workshop held in February 2009 involving Board members. The main focus of the strategic plan is for TFNet to increase membership, be financially sustainable and promote its image as an international network.

The 4th Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Banana and Tropical Fruits in December 2009 had proposed that TFNet undertake capacity building programs related to the value chain approach especially the enhancement of smallholders participation and increased market access for tropical fruits.

Since the last Session, TFNet has continued to expand its membership base and carried out projects for the benefit of its members and stakeholders in the tropical fruit industry.

TFNet MEMBERSHIP

TFNet membership has grown by 22 %, from 115 in December 2009 to 141 as on 30 April 2011. The membership by categories is as follows:

Membership	December 2009	April 2011
Country Members	6	10
Associate Members	13	15
Ordinary Members	97	116
Total	115	141

The ten country members are Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Philippines, Sudan and Syria. Associate members include CAB International, Bioversity International, Crops for the Future, AFMA and IICA.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2009 – 2012

The 13 members of the Board of Trustees comprise the Chairman, 6 country members, 2 institutional members, 2 technical experts, a representative from FAO and TFNet Chief Executive Officer as the secretary.

The following members were elected as members of the Board of Trustees 2009 -2012 during the 4th General Assembly :

HE Dato' Mohd. Hashim Abdullah - Chairperson

HE Dato' Mokhtar Ismail (until September 2010)

Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrobased Industry

Representative of the Government of Malaysia

Dr. Yi Ganjun - Vice Chairperson

Representative of the P. R. China

Mr. Muawya Jaber Abul Rahman - Vice Chairperson

Representative of Government of Syria

Mr. Amena Banuve

Representative of Government of Fiji

Dr. Idowu Ademola Adeseye

Representative of Government of Nigeria

Mr. Kaison Chang

Representative of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Mr. Chan Seng Kit

Managing Director, K-Farm Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia

Dr. Micheal Herman

Global Coordinator, Crops for the Future, Malaysia

Dr. Nguyen Minh Chau

Director, Southern Fruit Research Institute, Vietnam

Mr. Roslan bin Zulkifly

Head of Subsidiary, Golden Hope Food and Beverages Sdn. Bhd
Sime Darby Plantation, Malaysia

Professor Dr. Errol W. Hewett

Technical Expert, Massey University, New Zealand

Professor Dr. Sisir Kumar Mitra

Technical Expert, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, India

TFNet Chief Executive Officer - Secretary

ACTIVITIES OF TFNet

A. Consultancy, projects and studies

TFnet recognizes the need to carry out consultancies and studies to sustain itself financially. For the period between December 2009 – April 2011, the major activities were:

- i. Consultancy on Business Strategy and Implementation plan to establish Commercial Plantation Industrial Parks in the East Coast Economic Region of Malaysia. - A ten month study on the feasibility of large scale fruit trees and vegetables cultivation in 10 project areas in the East Coast Areas of Peninsular Malaysia.

B. Workshops and Seminars

The main activities of TFNet include the organizing of international seminars, workshops and study visits.

- i. Involved in the organizing of the **7th International Pineapple Symposium on 13 – 15 July 2010 in Johor Bahru, Malaysia**, together with ISHS, Malaysian Agricultural and Development Research Institute and the Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board.
- ii. **TFNet Board of Trustees meeting in Guangzhou, China from 6 – 7 July 2010**. The meeting was attended by 9 of the 13 Board members and observers from the Fruit Tree Research Institute, Guangzhou, China. Among items discussed were the need to develop / upgrade the human resources in the TFNet secretariat, constitutional amendments and to ensure that the TFNet strategic plan held earlier is fully materialized in terms of membership, financial sustainability, and image promotion through projects.
- iii. **Workshop on ‘Increasing competitiveness and enhancing market access for tropical fruits through quality assurance and value chain improvements in Asia’ in Bandung, Indonesia, 27 – 29 October 2010**.
The workshop jointly organized by TFNet and Department of Horticulture, Indonesia was attended by 50 participants including resource persons and observers from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia Philippines and Thailand. The workshop deliberated on constraints such as quality assurance and market access in tropical fruits. The workshop

managed to identify main constraints and recommended steps to mitigate them.

- iv. **Agribusiness roundtable on small and medium agro-processing enterprises (SMAE) development' in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 8 - 10 December 2010.** The roundtable, organized in collaboration with FAO, was attended by 30 SAME business managers / entrepreneurs from 11 Asian countries namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.
- v. TFNet in collaboration with Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute and Department of Agriculture organized a **Workshop on 'Integrated approaches on banana disease management' was held on 22 March 2011.** One hundred and eighty participants with resource persons from China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines attended the workshop.
- vi. TFNet, in collaboration with Common Fund for Commodity (CFC) and National Horticultural Research Institute, Nigeria with support from FAO organized a workshop on **'Enhancing participation in the value chain and establishing links to the market for tropical fruit smallholders in Africa' on 28 to 29 April 2011 in Lagos, Nigeria.** Participants from 15 countries attended the workshop.

C. Other activities

TFNet Website and newsletters

Besides news on TFNet's events and activities, the other features on the website are:

- i. Tropical Fruit Information – Technical information on tropical fruits which have been categorized into major, minor, underutilized and rare tropical fruits

- ii. Blog page on tropical fruits and the citrus greening disease for stakeholders to interact.
- iii. Trade and Promotion page for members to promote their products and services
- iv. Information on stakeholders in the tropical fruit industry for members
- v. TFNet newsletter is published every 6 months

CONCLUSION

TFNet has managed to organize two workshops relating to the value chain approach in tropical fruits following recommendations from the last Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Banana and Tropical Fruits, and will continue to do so in 2011/2012 in Bangladesh, Philippines and Sudan. TFNet is also proposing a citrus project under CFC funding for implementation in China, Laos, Indonesia and Malaysia.