

Dr Stephen Mbithi

Dr Stephen Mbithi Mwikya, is the Chief Executive Officer of the horticulture industry in Kenya (Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK). This is a membership organization (about 150 companies) of horticultural industry which is involved in production and export of fruits, vegetables and flowers. Exports from Kenya horticulture are currently valued at about 1.03 billion US\$ (2008-12) from sale of about 400,000MT. The sector supports 4.5 million people directly and indirectly. FPEAK is in charge of the Practical Training Centre (PTC) horticulture system whose head office is in Thika but with centers in 10 regions around the country. Dr Mbithi is also the Africa Ambassador to GLOBALGAP (formerly EurepGAP), the international market standard based in Koln, Germany. He has wide knowledge in international agribusiness trade, especially between Africa, EU, USA and other regions. Previously he worked in the fish industry in similar capacity for 5 years, where he was instrumental in getting Kenya fishery standards harmonized with the EU hence promoting fish trade between the two regions. Dr Mbithi studied in University of Nairobi, Kabete Campus for his B.Sc before proceeding to University of Ghent, Belgium for Masters and PhD training. He has been a lecturer in University of Nairobi, and Kenyatta University for 7 years, and has been an international consultant on standards (SPS), fresh produce and fisheries trade with organizations such as OECD, COMESA, several Governments and EU programs. Since 2002, Dr Mbithi has been a director in several government parastatals in Kenya, and in 2007, he was awarded an OGW medal by the Government of Kenya for his role in private sector development and public sector reforms through performance contracts.