

Horticultural supply chain management for greater market access

The horticulture sector in the Asia-Pacific region is growing fast. Most horticultural producers in the region are, however, smallholders faced by the challenges of inconsistent supply of a uniform quality of produce, lack of economy of scale, increasing competition, low farm-gate prices, and increasing emphasis on safety, quality assurance, and environmental management systems to gain access to high-end markets like the USA, EU, and Japan.

To acquaint participants with recent developments and global trends in the horticultural sector as well as with the knowledge and skills to assure quality, safety, and competitiveness in fruit and vegetable chains, the APO in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations organized a training course on Supply Chain Management for Horticultural Crops in New Delhi, India, 1–6 August 2011. The National Productivity Council with technical and financial support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, implemented the course. A total of 26 participants from 11 countries along with four resource persons from the Agricultural and Food Marketing Association for Asia and the Pacific, Fiji, India, and Malaysia attended.

A series of training modules and discussions on various good practices of

postharvest fruit and vegetable operations included global and regional trends, strategies to enhance competitiveness in supply chains, managing product quality and safety, harvesting and postharvest handling operations and facilities, monitoring and traceability of

produce, and logistics management and transportation systems. The participants were then asked to develop action plans to improve horticultural supply chains in their countries. Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt. Ltd., Mangolpuri Plant, Delhi, hosted a site visit where participants observed good practices of postharvest handling of fruit and vegetables in action. *Contributed by M. Saeed and Y. Endo/APO Agriculture Department.* 🌐



Dr. Rosa Rolle from FAO Bangkok speaking on "Managing Quality and Safety" in the training course on Supply Chain Management for Horticultural Crops. Photo APO/Y. Endo.