

**Title** Current status and future outlook of the global horticulture and postharvest initiatives  
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### **Abstract**

Horticulture is increasingly recognized by decision makers as a viable component of alleviating the world food crisis. Major donors are linking the need for sustainable horticultural crop production to human nutrition and disease reduction needs. Several international agricultural research centers of the Alliance of CGIAR Centers, include horticultural crops in their research and development portfolios. The World Vegetable Center focuses on alleviating poverty and malnutrition in the developing world through the increased production and consumption of safe vegetables. The Global Horticulture Initiative ([www.globalhort.org](http://www.globalhort.org)) is a worldwide consortium of national and international institutions collaborating in research, training and technology-generating activities to foster more efficient and effective partnerships and collective action – and operates as a major networking hub for gathering and organizing information that will solve problems constraining horticulture systems. International Development (USAID) consistently include horticulture in their country and regional programs. The Horticulture CRSP (Collaborative Research Support Program) being launched by USAID will leverage the U.S. Land Grant and Title XII university network to build local capacity in emerging economics through research, training, curriculum development and outreach. Partner stakeholders in the Horticulture CRSP will include universities in developing countries, developing country small farmers, international agricultural research centers and national agricultural research systems, associations of horticultural practitioners, global and national agribusinesses and developing country governments. Commercial import and export horticultural enterprises deal with the challenges of the interconnectedness of nations and global markets to remain sustainable. Meanwhile, although horticultural crop production and marketing continues to expand in many areas of the world, horticulture and postharvest initiatives will be presented and discussed.