“Diversifying Food Systems: Horticultural Innovations and Learning for Improved Nutrition and Livelihood in East Africa” (HORTINLEA)

JOINT INTERIM REPORT

(SP11)

01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014

FORMAL REPORT
**Activity I2:** The project seeks within all three value chains sustainability and assumes that this can only be reached when institutional factors are taken into consideration as they define the set of possible actions. The analysis of the given institutional framework is essential for improving the given production and marketing systems. As cooperative solutions, for example, as are of special importance for small-scale producers of indigenous vegetables, the research during this period almost entirely focused on examining how collective action can increase the efficiency of indigenous vegetable production in Kenya, taking into account each step in the value chain. One of the key hypotheses the field work confirmed was the length and complexity of “informal” value chains, to be
further explored in the next planned activity of the SP. The transaction costs attached to the different marketing arrangements in which AIV producers are engaged in Kiambu sub-country at peri-urban Nairobi were investigated. A main goal of the lengthy field work conducted between 16 March and 30 April 2014 was to identify the determinants of farmer’s participation in specific marketing channels. Transaction costs play a significant role with regards to farmers ‘participation to the coordinated value chain as the subsequent analysis shown. Findings from this completed crucial step of the research will soon be published in a discussion paper and will be further elaborated aiming at a publication in an academic peer-reviewed journal in 2015.-**Activity I3:** This work package aims at proving an additional benefit to the already existing focus on institutional arrangements in HORTINLEA’s Output 3 as it places particular importance on informal rules and cooperation that facilitate or hinder the production, marketing and export. It should be noted that although the initiation of this activity was planned for July 2014, preparations already began in early 2014. Thus a PhD researcher from our partner University in Kenya joined the HUB team from January to June 2014 and he was trained on qualitative methods and aspects of institutional and value-chain analysis, so as to initiate the field work on assessing the impact of different institutional arrangements on the sustainability of horticulture, considering the different stages of the value chain. Between July and October 2014, the candidate returned to Egerton University and continued developing his research proposal while preparing presentations and posters for the Summer school at Kenyatta University in September 2014. Following this event and according to the recommendation of the board, the candidate took the opportunity to collect data from the field so as to initiate the analysis of quantitative variables in 2015. The collection of data took place between October and mid-November 2014. It should be noted that data collected during this period has also been shared with SP9. By December 2014 the entry of data to the database has been completed.