Effective cooling/cold chain management is the most important factor to preserve food and to reduce postharvest losses. Ensuring access to affordable cooling with a minimum environmental impact due to the refrigerants is a big challenge globally. The University of Birmingham, UK is one of the prominent institute with expertise in clean cooling.

The University of Birmingham is organising “A Cool World” (18th-19th April 2018), the first ever international congress on clean cooling to bring together more than 100 cooling and energy efficiency decision-makers and experts to discuss how to meet our global demand for cooling sustainably. Dr Lisa Kitinoja will be speaking on cooling and the appropriate practices and methods for developing countries.
Bertha Mjawa, PEF board member has provided consultancy to induce capacity building to the postharvest staff involved in the project for postharvest loss reduction in Rwanda. The project was funded by several national and international organisations and was implemented by Agribusiness Associates Inc. (ABA Inc.). Bertha was involved in preparation of guidelines and questionnaires for base survey, desk reviews, training of trainers to postharvest specialists, conducting personal visits, providing guidance to local teams and work review to ensure desired standards and practices. A number of relevant technologies were proposed to the farmers through this project and suggested uses of three postharvest training and services centers (PTSCs) as central technology hubs to reduce crop losses and improve profitable markets.

Sintayehu Musie, Ethiopia (2015 PEF E-learning graduate) is currently working as a lecturer and researcher at Department of Horticulture, Debre Markos University. PEF sponsored his travel to attend the short-course on ‘Intensive vegetable production and modern irrigation technologies’ organized by MATC-MASHAV’s international agricultural training centre from 29th January to 16th February 2018 in Israel.

The training covered different topics and provided practical experience on vegetable production and agro-technologies for open field and protected conditions, climate control, irrigation and fertigation management, integrated pest management, postharvest handling and marketing as well as research and extension services.
An International conference marking the inaugural of Ethiopian Society of Post-Harvest Management (ESPHM) January 26-27, 2018 was successfully concluded in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The theme of the conference was “Post-harvest management (PHM) for food security and sustainable development: A missing link but viable approach”.

Dr Ali Mohammed lead the effort to hold this conference and PEF e-learning graduates Dr Jane Ambuko, Gerefa Sefu, Misale Kuru, Esa Abiso, Sintayehu Musie and Mekbib Seife were involved in organising and made presentations at the conference. PEF is the proud sponsor of this postharvest conference.

Dr. Jane Ambuko (2012 PEF graduate), who was chairperson of organising committee of 1st All Africa Postharvest Congress in Nairobi, Kenya (March 2017) made a presentation on the lessons learnt from the that conference.

Courtney Jallo (2016 PEF graduate) and Robert Odoi (2016 PEF graduate) have been measuring postharvest losses in Arizona for World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA).

Courtney presented the findings of the GCCA on-farm food loss through CSAM studies at "No Food Left Behind: Underutilized Produce Ripe for Alternative Markets" Spring Conference 2018 (2 March 2018) by World Wildlife Fund and the Food & Agribusiness Institute of the Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University, California.
Wilberforce Myumba, Uganda (2013 PEF graduate) was consulted to construct a ZECC, provide training and monitor the progress in Masaka, Uganda for Glow Effect, a project that helps to empower rural women/widows by providing economic skills. The ZECC was built at a community center targeting women engaged in various income generating enterprises including farming. Over 200 women farmers growing fruits and vegetables to sell in the nearby town will be benefitted by these ZECC.

Adams Abdul-Rahaman, Ghana (2012 PEF graduate) joined PhD in Benue State University, Nigeria. He will be doing his research at Centre for Food Technology and Research (CEFTER) and will be working on topic related to postharvest food loss reduction.

Esa Abiso, Ethiopia (2014 PEF graduate) won 2-year scholarship to pursue his PhD at Jiangsu University. He will be working on bio-control yeasts to control postharvest diseases. Jiangsu University, China is one of the sister university in “The World Food Preservation Center LLC”.

Congratulations to both on admission into PhD programs and we wish them the very best in their postharvest studies and future endeavours.
The Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius is leading a “Food Loss and Food Waste Reduction and Recovery” Initiative and organised a conference and a twelve-month awareness campaign from March 2018 to March 2019 with the support of PEF and many stakeholders. Several activities pertaining to food loss and waste reduction were planned as part of the initiative over one year, including a ‘forum on postharvest losses of fruit and vegetables’, ‘a year long awareness campaigns’ and ‘a conference’.

The conference was successfully organised from 27th February to 1st March 2018 at University of Mauritius campus. PEF board member Vijay Yadav Tokala presented on the role of PEF in postharvest capacity building for global food loss and waste reduction. He also interacted with food loss and waste experts and suggested some possible approaches to reduce losses based on the examples from literature review earlier conducted by PEF/WFLO and provided information on the PEF e-learning programs.

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign is organising “Revalorizing Extension: Evidence and Practice” symposium (3rd-4th April 2018) to bring together researchers and practitioners to discuss role of extension services in international agricultural development and ways to increase support to and effectively deliver extension services to smallholder farmers. Over 50 professionals are expected to present their work and experiences.

Dr Majeed Mohammad, PEF board member will present on “The Postharvest Education Foundation: Role in postharvest capacity building through innovative extension platforms and effective training programs” at the symposium.
Congratulations to our new PEF graduates on the successful completion of PEF e-learning course and welcome to our PEF postharvest specialists alumni group.

- Pascal Dukuzumuhoza (Rwanda)
- Hilda Vansanthakalam (Rwanda)
- Chelsea Johnson (Ohio, USA)
- Chinyere Ester Onyia (Nigeria)

**2018 PEF e-learning closing workshop!**

PEF closing workshop will be conducted in Kigali, Rwanda from 18-21 July, 2018, in conjunction with the ABA Postharvest Agribusiness Innovation Conference and Competition. Follow [PEF Facebook page](http://www.postharvest.org/postharvest_elearning_program1.aspx) for further updates.

**PEF’s ‘Global Postharvest E-learning Program’ is now Free!**

Check the website for further details and register by completing Assignment #1: [http://postharvest.org/postharvest_elearning_program1.aspx](http://postharvest.org/postharvest_elearning_program1.aspx)

**Postharvest Queries:**

Mail us at postharvest@postharvest.org any postharvest related questions you wish to be answered.

**SUPPORT OUR WORK**

The Postharvest Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity with aim to reduce global food losses, which are as high as up to 50%.

Donations to The Postharvest Education Foundation are used for 3 major program activities:

1. **Postharvest tool kit:** For e-learners from developing country who complete their training (US$400 each).
2. **Travel Support:** To pay for the travel expenses to attend international postharvest training programs (air tickets, hotels, food, local transport costs) (Estimated as $1500-$2000 per e-learner).
3. **Kader Awards:** Awarded annually in honour of Dr Adel A. Kader to PEF Alumni, who show greatest impact in providing trainings for clientele at different levels ($500).

Kindly check our website ([http://www.postharvest.org/donate.aspx](http://www.postharvest.org/donate.aspx)) for other alternate ways to donate.

Thanks in advance for your tax-deductible donation, which will be used to train young horticultural professionals via low cost internet based programs, with reading assignments, fieldwork on improved practices for postharvest handling, storage, processing and marketing.