



The Postharvest Education Foundation (PEF)

PEF President's Message



Dr. Lisa Kitinoja
President & Founder
kitinoja@postharvest.org

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the many volunteers who provide their time, skills and money to assist The Postharvest Education Foundation with our program implementation, training and outreach activities. Since PEF was launched in 2011, we have had the continuing support of Bertha Mjawa, Diane Barrett and Lizanne Wheeler. They have served as instructors, travelled on their own time and at their own expense, and are still providing mentoring for our trainees and “postharvest specialists”. PEF short courses/study tours would not have been possible without our volunteers in Indonesia (I Made Utama and his team in Bali) and Tanzania (Radegunda Kessy, Ngoni Nenguwu and more). PEF closing workshops depended upon the generosity of our hosts in India (Sunil Saran, Nagalaxmi Raman), Ethiopia (Ali Mohammed and his team at Jimma University; Esa Abiso, Mekbib Seife and Gezai Abera in Semera) and Tanzania (Odette Ngulu, Mary Mdachi and Bertha Mjawa).

This newsletter includes some details on the activities of our current international volunteers and our all-volunteer board of directors. PEF is grateful for all this support, and to all, we say THANK YOU!

New PTSC opened in Kigali, Rwanda!



PTSC in Kigali, Rwanda established with funding and sponsorship by MINAGRI & NAEB

Every country, region and village needs a PTSC (Postharvest Training and Services Center) to measure postharvest losses, finding out causes and solutions. The newest one is located near Kigali, Rwanda. Farmers and traders are already visiting the center to know about small-scale postharvest technologies and handling, storage and processing practices that can help them to reduce losses. The center is established with support of the Hort Innovation Lab, MINAGRI (Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources) and NAEB (National Agricultural Export Development Board).



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Tuskegee University Small-scale Postharvest Short Course/Study Tour



Lizanne Wheeler demonstrating solar drying of tomatoes in the workshop

The Tuskegee University Global Center for Postharvest Research and Training, partnering with the Postharvest Education Foundation (PEF) and World Food Logistics Organization (WFLO) organised a 5-day free workshop “Small-scale Postharvest Handling Technologies of Horticultural Crops Short Course & Study Tour” June 19-23, 2017, at Tuskegee University.

Workshop included various topics related to storage environments (temperature, humidity etc), harvesting techniques, maturity indices, quality maintenance and marketing strategies for small scale

horticultural farmers. Demos included construction of a ZECC, construction, maintaining and managing a small-scale mobile Coolbot trailer and using simple solar dryers for value addition. Lizanne Wheeler has participated in the workshop behalf of PEF.

UC Davis Postharvest Short Course - June 2017

The 39th Annual Postharvest Technology of Horticultural Crops Short Course workshop was conducted by Postharvest Technology Center (PTC), University of California, Davis from 19th-30th June, 2017. It was designed for research and extension workers, quality control personnel and other professionals interested in current advances in postharvest technology of horticultural crops.

PEF e-learning graduates Radegunda Kessy and Bernard Rwubitse had the opportunity to attend this year's program in Davis, California. Thanks to Diane Barrett and the PTC for sponsoring and hosting our young colleagues!



Dr. Diane Barrett with Radegunda Kessy and Bernard Rwubitse

Thanks to SAWBO and Hort Innovation Lab

SAWBO (Scientific Animations Without Borders, Michigan State University) provided 100 USB cards loaded with their animated videos for our PEF Expo booth at the All-Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition in Nairobi. Topics of the videos include best practices for loading and unloading food crops, proper storage of grains and tips on food safety.

In June 2017, the **Hort Innovation Lab** donated 20 Dry Cards for PEF to include in our Postharvest Tool Kits for future e-learning graduates. The “**Dry Card**” is a simple, reusable RH% measuring device that changes color depending on the moisture level of the air. Dry Card won first prize in the “All Africa Postharvest Technologies and Innovation Challenge” at the first All-Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition in Kenya. (<http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/main/drycard.html>)



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Updates on activities of our PEF Volunteers

❑ **CRC Press book on postharvest being edited by PEF Board members:**

In 2016, Dr. Anne Turner (Tanzania) assisted Dr. Lisa Kitinoja with the development of an outline and proposal for a CRC Press book on the topic of “Postharvest Capacity Building and Extension Education in Developing Areas”. PEF board members Dr. Majeed Mohammed (UWI, Trinidad & Tobago) and Vijay Yadav Tokala (India, currently working on his PhD at Curtin University in Australia) are editing the 22 chapter book now, with a publication date planned for 2018.

❑ **PEF Postharvest e-learning manual in French version:**

In June 2017, Antonio Edoh Kukom (Togo) reviewed and edited a new French version of our PEF postharvest e-learning manual being developed by LK and Guy Kodjogbe (Benin) for an ABA Inc/Hort Innovation Lab postharvest project in Burkina Faso.

❑ **LUNCHBOX to support for PEF website improvement:**

Ayodele Oshinaike of Lunchbox (<http://lunchbox.us.com>), introduces ‘Lunchbox’ as an interactive app which allows to shop smart, cook well, save money, and reduce food waste all while connecting with the world. Ayo is assisting Vijay to develop interactive maps for the PEF website. The plan is to include information on the postharvest training activities of our e-learning graduates, with photos, contact information and regular updates.

❑ **100 under \$100: Tools for reducing food losses**

Betsy Teutsch, author of ‘100 under \$100: Tools for reducing food losses’ (<http://100under100.org>) is researching, organizing and drafting one page on each innovation, to highlight the top 100. Each innovation will cost less than US\$100 to buy, build or utilize and be proven to be cost effective for smallholder farmers and rural users.

PEF board members, Drs. Anne Mbaabu and John Macharia (AGRA), Chris Watkins (NRI) and Prasanta Kalita (ADMI) have volunteered to provide feedback and technical advice on the first draft of this PEF sponsored book. Dr. Lisa Kitinoja has been assisting Betsy by providing photos and lists of potential low cost postharvest tools.

Opportunity to share your postharvest papers and project reports!

During the next few months Dr Lisa will be working with WBG on a series of massive literature reviews measuring postharvest losses for grains/legumes, roots/tubers crops and fruits/vegetables, vetted technologies for reducing losses, and the status of any potential solutions. Share your publications/projects on the topics of data on measured losses, costs/benefit information or data on impacts of tested technologies via email (kitinoja@postharvest.org) to avail an excellent opportunity to include your country in the reports.



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Our new PEF graduates

- ❖ Congratulations **Bernard Rwubitse and Angelique Uwamahoro** for the successful completion of the PEF postharvest e-learning program. Mr Serge Ndayitabi, Project Coordinator, Agri Business Associates Inc. (ABA Inc.), Rwanda has handed over their Certificates of Completion and postharvest tool kits. Special thanks to ABA Inc. for sponsoring six of the PEF e-learners in Rwanda.
- ❖ Congratulations to **Hadijah Nantambi Ssekyondwa** in Uganda on successful completion of PEF e-learning course and welcome to our PEF postharvest specialists alumni group!

Mr Serge Ndayitabi (center) handing over the Certificate of Completion and postharvest tool kits to Bernard Rwubitse (left) and Angelique Uwamahoro (right) .

Achievements of our PEF graduates

- ❖ Congratulations **Dr. Basharat Ali Saleem, Pakistan (2012 PEF graduate)** on winning the prestigious 'Australian Endeavour Award' and completing Executive Training program to study methods to alleviate Chilling Injury in Sweet Orange fruit in collaboration with Prof. Zora Singh, Curtin University, Perth, W. Australia.
- ❖ Best wishes to **Kukom Edoh Ognakossan, Togo (2013 PEF graduate)** on completion of his MSc. Food Science and Technology on topic 'Assessment of rodents' postharvest losses in on-farm maize storage in Kenya'.

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

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>) 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.

Mail us at newsletter@postharvest.org to subscribe the PEF newsletter.

Contact Us:

The Postharvest Education Foundation

PO Box 38, La Pine, Oregon 97739 USA

Office telephone: 1 (916) 708 7218

Email: postharvest@postharvest.org

Website: www.postharvest.org

Connect with us on:

