



In four years, our graduates' postharvest training events and outreach efforts have reached nearly 120,000 small scale farmers, horticultural crops handlers and extension officers in Africa and Asia.

PEF President's Message



Dr. Lisa Kitinoja
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As 2018 begins, the postharvest activities calendar is filling up quickly. Dr. Ali Mohammed is leading the effort to hold the 1st international postharvest management conference in Addis Ababa on 26-27 January for the launch of the Ethiopian Society of Post-Harvest Management (ESPHM). On February 10, a national Conference on Postharvest Loss Management will be held at Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia. The World Wildlife Fund and the Global Cold Chain Alliance are fielding PEF trained CSAM teams on Arizona lettuce fields in January/February to identify on-farm losses, and has organized a Food Loss Reduction workshop in March at Santa Clara University. The ABA project in Burkina Faso will hold its closing e-learning workshop in March. Tuskegee University is offering its second postharvest e-learning program for young people in the USA who work with smallholder vegetable farmers, farmers markets and cooperatives, concluding with a closing workshop and short course in May. We wish everyone continuing success in their work!

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!

Solar Dryer designed by PEF graduates



Sadia Arfin Tithi demonstrating the solar dryer.

Faruq Bin Hossain Yamin (2012 PEF graduate) and his colleagues at BARI, Bangladesh have designed solar dryers innovatively in a hanging basket version (covered in black net cloth) and a design with a solar collector added to the end of a traditional direct model. They claim to have managed to increase the drying temperature from 30 to 50°C with RH% reduced from 60 to 20% and speed up the drying times, a true achievement for the very humid conditions found in Bangladesh.



Faruq Bin Yamin (left) with vegetables dried in solar dryer.



The Postharvest Education Foundation

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Congratulations to 2017 Kader Award Winners.!

Congratulations to **Dr. Mohammed Razu Ahmed and his team** (Bangladesh) [Fieldwork/ Extension Farmer Training] and **Mr. Gerefe Sefu** (Ethiopia) [Academic/ University Student Training] on winning 2017 Kader Award Winners. Honourable mentions go to **Jane Talam** (Kenya) and **Bernard Rwubitse** (Rwanda).

The Kader Award is announced on December 10, awarded annually on the anniversary of the passing of Dr. Adel A. Kader to the outstanding postharvest e-learner or a team of e-learners after successful completion of one-year PEF e-learning program, who has had the greatest impact in providing education to local farmers, traders, processors and/or marketers and helping them to reduce food losses in their village, country, or region after the successful completion of the course. The awards honor the late Professor Adel A. Kader, who we believe contributed more to the knowledge and understanding of postharvest technology of fruits and vegetables than any other individual in the field. Dr. Kader's knowledge, experience and generosity of spirit continue to inspire us today through PEF and the Kader Awards (http://postharvest.org/kader_awards.aspx)



Dr. Ahmed is the Country Coordinator, World Vegetable Center, Bangladesh (also known as AVRDC, co-located at BARI, the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Center). Razu (PEF e-learning graduate in 2015) and his team were involved in implementing the USAID postharvest project in Bangladesh, and Razu serves as a consultant in postharvest & nutrition at the World Veg Center's "Homegrown project" with CARE.

He has trained the project staff of CARE and work with them to implement local training on food storage and preservation. The team includes: Dr. Latiful Bari (food safety issues), Dr. Atiqur Rahman (postharvest research based on established model packhouse, comparative handling trials), Mr. Monir (assists in project activities in Jessore), Harunur Rashid (assists project activities in Barisal), Md. Faruq Bin Yamin (PEF e-learning graduate 2013, assisted with design and construction of the solar dryer) and Mr. Gauranga, CARE personnel (assisted with preparations of the solar dryer). The team has trained more than 600 people since 2014 (408 men and 295 women) and under the CARE project the team has developed a low cost solar dryer in collaboration with BARI which will be used by 3000 project beneficiaries between now and June 2018.

Gerefa has a Masters degree from Jimma University (2014) and is a 2015 PEF e-learning graduate. He delivers postharvest courses for undergraduate students, advises students on their project work, and participates in research work and community services. He works at Bahir Dar University, an internationally known institution in Ethiopia, attracting professionals and postharvest practitioners from the East Africa community to their training events. Local businesses can request university support which brings the people together to solve postharvest problems. Gerefa is on the organizing committee for a postharvest conference at Bahir Dar University being planned for 2018.





2017 PEF UPDATES



The Postharvest Education Foundation has successfully completed another year of postharvest e-learning, with **14 new graduates from 6 different countries** in our 2017 Global Postharvest E-learning Program. Our new e-learning manual and online training materials repository are in use for conducting this year's free to all program in which we have 30 people enrolled.

In May 2017, **Lizanne Wheeler and Lucy Asare-Baah** provided closing workshops for 12 horticultural professionals in our postharvest e-learning program with **Tuskegee University, Alabama (USA)**. For 2018 we have 11 new participants enrolled and in May 2018 we will help the Tuskegee team to manage their postharvest/food processing training center for extension workers in the South-eastern United States and conduct their second postharvest short course/study tour.



Samuel Kalu Anya (Nigeria) (shown on the left), 2015 PEF e-learning graduate has launched '**Agritechnovate Organic Farms**', an enterprise designed for organic produce operation, including production, postharvest and marketing of assorted veg crops for consumers in big cities across Africa.



In October 2016 PEF began working with **Agribusiness Associates (ABA)** on a new 3-year Hort Innov Lab project in Rwanda where three new Postharvest Training and Services Centers have now been launched for the local farmers/ traders/ marketers. So far we have had 8 new PEF e-learning graduates from Rwanda, each sponsored by ABA, held our PEF closing workshop in Kigali in March 2017, and several more participants are close to completing the e-learning program.





With the assistance of Guy Kodjogbe, one of our first PEF graduates, ABA is also managing a postharvest e-learning program in French for 30 participants in Burkina Faso (photo show workshop launching the program in October 2017).




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2017 PEF UPDATES

-  In August 2018, we'll hold our **"7th annual e-learning "closing workshop"** in Kigali, Rwanda, and our newest graduate "Postharvest Specialists" will receive their tool kits and gather in person for the first time. One of our PEF board members will be traveling to Rwanda to meet our new graduates, Top e-learners, Kader Award winners, and conduct the postharvest training workshops with the assistance of some of our past e-learning graduates.
-  **Dr. Olubukola Odeyemi** (PEF Kader Award winner 2015) is leading and mentoring a batch of 6 young postharvest e-learning participants in Nigeria. They are using our new training manual, which includes guidance for instructors on how to review and provide feedback on reports.



-  Our big project this coming year is a book titled, **'100 under \$100: Tools for reducing postharvest losses'**, with Betsy Teutsch. She is writing a wonderful book, full of illustrations of improved postharvest practices, tools and technologies, hotlinks to resources and stories of how people including some of our PEF graduates are working in their home countries to reduce food losses. The first version of the book will be disseminated as a free pdf document, and we are seeking sponsors to help PEF to pay for a printed edition in mid 2018.

-  PEF board members worked with WFLO colleagues during the summer of 2017 to review the existing literature on food loss measurement and food loss reduction for the World Bank. Several publications are in the development stage, including a book chapter on **"Postharvest education, extension and capacity building"** for a WFPC sponsored/CRC Press project, and a journal article on **"Issues and opportunities for improved measurement of postharvest losses in plant based food crops"**.
-  **Samuel Kalu Anya and Solomon Niyi Adebusekan** (Nigeria) 2015 PEF e-learning graduates are working with Dr. Lisa on a new PEF White Paper "The use of plastic crates to reduce postharvest losses in vegetable crops in Nigeria". They are doing currently interviews and collecting market price data for various crops.



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2017 PEF UPDATES

- 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, Australia) are editing the book now. With the wonderful contributions from the authors the book is near end and will be ready to submit to publishers soon by April, 2018. Thank you again to all of our PEF supporters who are serving as voluntary chapter authors and sharing their research results and extension/capacity building experiences.
- In November, PEF launched a fundraising campaign on Facebook to enable us to invite as many e-learners as possible to our closing workshop. On ‘Giving Tuesday’, the Gates Foundation matched any Facebook donations, helping us to raise more than \$2500 to date. A big thanks to all the donors for supporting the cause.

Our newest PEF graduates

Congratulations to our new PEF graduates on the successful completion of PEF e-learning course and welcome to our PEF postharvest specialists alumni group.

- **Mukamajoro Suzanne (Rwanda)** is presently doing a professional internship in Rwanda Agriculture Board.
- **Bonaventure Ufitinema (Rwanda)** is working as Agronomist in Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources/ Land Husbandry, Water Harvesting and Hillside Irrigation- Rural Sector Support Project (MINAGRI / LWH- RSSP).



Mr Serge Ndayitabi, Project Coordinator, ABA Inc. (left) handing over the Certificate of Completion and postharvest tool kits to Bonaventure.

- **Solange Musanase (Rwanda)** is one of the new staff members providing postharvest training at the PTSC on the campus of the University of Rwanda (UR). In June-July 2017, Solange worked with Dr. Lisa on CSAM studies on tomatoes and maize in Rwanda for the World Bank.
- **Sharon Cyatengwa (Rwanda)** is one of the new staff members providing postharvest training at the PTSC in Mulindi for the National Agricultural Export Board (NAEB).



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*We wish you a wonderful year ahead filled with
cheerful moments, joy and abundance.*

Happy New Year 2018



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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.

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

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