



## PEF President's Message



**Dr. Lisa Kitinoja**  
President & Founder  
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Our PEF board of directors has been hard at work, presenting at postharvest conferences and symposiums. Vijay Yadav Tokala participated in a FLW reduction conference in Mauritius in February, Bertha Mjawa was in Rwanda in March leading the training programs for the new PTSCs, and Majeed Mohammed is preparing to attend the "Revalorizing Extension" Symposium on April 3-4 in the USA.

Our e-learning graduates have been busy too. Mekbib Hilegebrile Seife presented on PEF's work at the ESPHM Conference in Addis Ababa in January. Wilberforce Muyumba has been busy training women in Uganda on the construction and utilization of the ZECC for keeping their produce cool. Dr. Olubukola Odeyemi is working with 6 e-learning trainees in Nigeria, and is providing feedback on their reports and mentoring. Lucy Asare-Baah is leading another e-learning program with 11 people enrolled at Tuskegee University. We wish everyone continuing success in their work!

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

## A Cool World: 1st International Congress on Clean Cooling

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.

**A Cool World**

1st International Congress on Clean Cooling

18th - 19th April, University of Birmingham

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM | BIRMINGHAM ENERGY INSTITUTE

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.





# The Postharvest Education Foundation

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## Postharvest loss reduction in Rwanda

**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.



Bertha Mjawa (extreme right) administering survey at Huve District Rusatira Sector, Rwanda.



## PEF sponsored E-learning graduate attends hort short course in Israel



**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 29<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> 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.





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## ESPHM Inaugural and First International Conference



(L to R) Jane Ambuko, Gerefe Sefu, Misale Kuru, Esa Abiso, Sintayehu Musie, Mekbib Seife & Dr Ali Mohammed

### 3. Capacity Development at all levels of the value chain

Curricula development/review to incorporate FLW issues

Development of science around Post-harvest Losses to bridge the gap between Research and Development and field practice (lab to land)

Build and institutionalize FLW capacity development programs

- Establish centres of excellence in various value chains

Mainstream gender to ensure that capacity development initiatives are responsive to women and attractive to the youth along the entire value chain

A slide from Dr Jane's presentation on outcomes of 1st All Africa Postharvest Congress in Nairobi, Kenya.

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 presented on food loss studies at Santa Clara University, CA



Courtney Jallo measuring postharvest losses in Romaine lettuce in Arizona for WWF and GCCA

**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.





## Consultancy for ZECC construction and postharvest training in Uganda



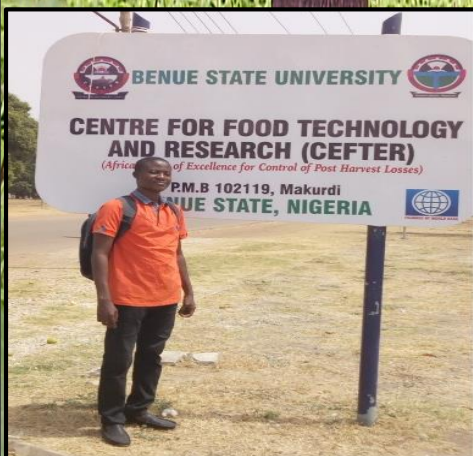
Wilberforce Myumba with women farmers and completed Zero Energy Cooling Chamber (ZECC)



Wilberforce training women farmers

**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.

## Congratulations to PEF E-learning graduates on admission into PhD



Adams Abdul-Rahaman at CEFTER, Benue State, Nigeria

**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”](#).



Esa Abiso at Jiangsu University, China

Congratulations to both on admission into PhD programs and we wish them the very best in their postharvest studies and future endeavours.





## “Food Loss and Food Waste Reduction and Recovery” University of Mauritius



**The Postharvest Education Foundation (PEF):**  
Postharvest capacity building for global food loss and waste reduction



**Vijay Yadav Tokala and Lisa Kitinjo**  
The Postharvest Education Foundation

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 27<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Revalorizing Extension: Evidence and Practice

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign is organising “Revalorizing Extension: Evidence and Practice” symposium (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 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.









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## 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.

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



Mr Serge, ABA Inc. (left) handing over Certificate and postharvest tool kit to Pascal (Rwanda).

## 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](#) 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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@postharvest.org) to subscribe to the PEF newsletter.

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