

Announcing the 1st All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition

The University of Nairobi in partnership with a consortium of Universities, Research and Development Organizations, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and in conjunction with the World Food Preservation Center (WFPC) is organizing the **1st All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition**. The congress which is scheduled for **28th to 31st March, 2017** will be held at the **Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi**.

The Congress, whose theme is ***“Reducing Food Losses and Waste: Sustainable Solutions for Africa”***, seeks to contribute to the global agenda of reducing postharvest food loss and waste. It seeks to define actionable solutions to reverse the current trend where an estimated 30 per cent or 1.3 billion metric tons of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted along various supply chains. These losses result in at least 15% lost income for over 470 million actors across the agriculture value chain. The Congress will provide an opportunity to respond to the calls for action outlined in United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Malabo Declaration (2014) which have set a target of halving postharvest losses by 2030 and 2025 respectively.

This great convening will bring together over 500 delegates in the postharvest arena including world renowned speakers, innovators and exhibitors. The delegates are drawn from diverse sectors including researchers, academics, entrepreneurs, farmers/farmer organizations, development agencies, civil society and policy makers from all over the world. The Congress will provide a platform for the delegates to learn, share information and build strategic partnerships with the overall objective of identifying effective interventions to reduce food loss waste on the continent. Some of the high level speakers invited to share their thoughts at the congress include Kenya’s Deputy President, Hon. William Ruto; Rockefeller Foundation’s Africa Region Managing Director, Mamadou Biteye; African Development Bank’s President, Adesina Adeyemi; AGRA’s president, Agnes Kalibata among others.

The lead strategic partner in this great initiative is the Rockefeller Foundation. The initiative is also supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Horticulture Innovation Lab (USAID), East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (USAID), Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), International

Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Postharvest Education Foundation, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), East African Grain Council (EAGC) among others.

A key highlight of the congress is the **Postharvest Technologies Challenge (PTC)** which is seeking to unveil hitherto unknown technologies and innovations that can be used to address postharvest challenges in various food value chains. In this regard, there is a call for entries from innovators from across the Africa continent who have technologies/innovations that can be adopted to reduce food loss and waste in the African context. The entries will be screened by experts through a process which will identify the top 10 innovations. The finalists will pitch for their innovations to investors, donors and other relevant stakeholders during a special session of the congress.

For more information please visit the congress website <http://africa-postharvestconference.uonbi.ac.ke> or contact the Chair of the organizing committee Dr. Jane Ambuko by E-mail: postharvest.conference@uonbi.ac.ke OR postharvest.conference@gmail.com. Phone: +254-726-580473 OR +254-722-676458.