**Nairobi set to host the inaugural Africa Post Harvest and Congress and Exhibition**

University of Nairobi and a consortium of partners will be hosting the 1st All Africa Post Harvest Congress & Exhibition from March 28-31 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Congress, whose theme is ***“Reducing food losses and waste: Sustainable solutions for Africa”*** aims to develop actionable plans to reduce postharvest losses and waste in line with set targets under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Malabo Declaration. It will be held at the picturesque Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

The event will address key aspects of postharvest management related to perishable crops, perishable animal products, non-perishable food commodities, capacity development and related social issues that affect postharvest management. It will include an excursion to see some practical examples of cutting edge projects on the ground.

There are several world renowned speakers confirmed to speak at the Congress. They include Steve Sonka of the ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss; Linus Opara of University of Stellenbosch; Thomas Dubois of the World Vegetable Centre; Vimal Shah, Chief Executive Officer, BIDCO Africa; Elizabeth Mitcham, Director of the Horticulture Innovation Lab; John Bowman, of USAID; Gurbinder Gill, of Agribusiness Associates and Johan van Asbrouck, of Rhino Research. The Chief Guest will be Kenyan Deputy President, William Ruto.

[Registration](http://africa-postharvestconference.uonbi.ac.ke/registration/) to attend the conference is $400, or $350 at early-bird rates before Feb. 28, 2017. A student rate is also available ($150 or $100 for early birds). An optional excursion trip scheduled for March 28 is available for an additional $50. The trip will take delegates to see some cutting edge postharvest management programmes in the rural areas just outside Nairobi.

**All Africa Postharvest Technology and Innovations Challenge**

A key highlight of the Congress is the inaugural **All Africa Postharvest Technology and Innovations Challenge** which seeks to highlightemerging postharvest technologies and innovations with high potential for scale up. Innovators are invited to submit a 2-page description of their technology highlighting the potential impact and scalability of their products. The top 10 innovators will be selected to receive a shared Award of $35,000 and be given an opportunity to pitch their innovations during a plenary session. Further, the ten innovators will be trained on how to pitch their ideas and concepts to investors at a bootcamp to be held prior to the conference. The deadline for submission for technology and innovation entries has been extended to **February 24, 2017** to allow for more entries. Additional details on the Challenge are available in a [FoodTank article](https://foodtank.com/news/2017/01/postharvest-loss-reduction-conference-and-competition-africa/) or on the [official Call for Entries](http://africa-postharvestconference.uonbi.ac.ke/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Call-for-Entries-AAPTIC.pdf).

**Congress Exhibition**

There will be a Congress exhibition to shine a spotlight on emerging technologies and innovations in postharvest management. A number of local and international organizations have already signed up. They include the Horticulture Innovation Lab which will display and share information about postharvest technologies for fruit, vegetable, and seed such as the [drying beads](http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/main/projects/scaling_drying_beads.html), the [DryCard](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CSylvia%5CDownloads%5Cdrycard.ucdavis.edu), and the [chimney solar dryer](http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/main/media%20page/technologies_chimney_solar_dryer.pdf).

**How to participate**

For [Registration](http://africa-postharvestconference.uonbi.ac.ke/registration/) delegates should fill out an online registration form at the Congress website. Delegates unable to register online should contact register.postharvest@gmail,com

**More Information:**

* [Registration](http://africa-postharvestconference.uonbi.ac.ke/registration/)
* [Event website](http://africa-postharvestconference.uonbi.ac.ke/)