

Announcement: The PEF Kader Awards in Postharvest Training for 2015

December 10, 2015

Awarded by the Board of Directors of The Postharvest Education Foundation to an outstanding graduate postharvest e-learner or a team of e-learners after the successful completion of a year of training on commodity systems assessment, small-scale postharvest handling practices, postharvest demonstration design, postharvest training program design and cost/benefit analysis.

2015 Winners: **Mekbib Seife Hailegebrile (Ethiopia)** and **Olubukola Odeyemi (Nigeria)**

Honorary mentions: Radegunda Kessy (Tanzania) and Mohmad Arief Zargar (India).

Mekbib Seife Hailegebrile (Ethiopia): 2015 Kader Award for farmer/field-based training.

In his work as a Nutrition and BCC Field level Technical Specialist/Advisor at Mercy Corps, Mekbib has trained thousands of people in Ethiopia since he completed his e-learning program in 2013, conducting training for development agents (DAs), Agricultural Extension Workers, health extension workers, school teachers and model farmers on home gardening, postharvest handling of fruits and vegetables and food cooking demonstration. Working as a PEF volunteer, he translated Small-Scale Postharvest Handling Practices: A Manual for Horticultural Crops (4th Edition) by Lisa Kitinoja and Adel A. Kader, to an Ethiopian local language, Amharic. Evaluations of some of his many postharvest demonstration programs (on rice, maize, onions, and many more crops) indicate that agricultural extension agents/DAs have gained enough knowledge and skills that they are multiplying the training for farmers in reducing food loss and scaling up the activity to other communities.



Mekbib Seife Hailegebrile

Ventilated onion storage demo in the Afar Region

Olubukola Odeyemi (Nigeria): 2015 Kader Award for student/university-based training.

Dr. Odeyemi works as a Lecturer II at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria, plus as a postharvest consultant and volunteer trainer for her local community. She has set up demonstrations of the Zero Energy Cool Chamber and taught her students to use postharvest tools and equipment. Among the many activities she participated in during 2015, she trained young student farmers on organic production and postharvest handling of vegetables such as amaranthus, telfaria, jute mallow, cucumber and sweet corn from production to harvesting to marketing under the **Work, Earn and Learn Programme** (a programme aimed at equipping graduates with entrepreneurial skills leading to the establishment of their own farms and handling of their own produce). She has recently been able to establish a link with the Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC) within the University through which she will be training their smallholder farmers on postharvest handling of crops at different times within the year.



A few of the postharvest student trainees in Nigeria with Olubukola Odeymi. Six of her 24 students have already started their own farms, and the program is expected to reach 50 more students in 2016.

The Kader Awards in Postharvest Training includes:

- An award certificate in honor of Dr. Adel A. Kader and signed by the chair of the PEF Board of Directors
- a trip to participate in our February 2016 PEF Global e-learning closing workshop in Jimma, Ethiopia
- a cash prize of US \$500

The winner will provide a one hour presentation while attending a February workshop in Ethiopia on their activities in the field of postharvest training since the completion of their e-learning program.

Dr. Adel A. Kader (1941-2012) spent the majority of his career at the University of California at Davis, where he was a world renowned researcher, author, extension specialist and teacher. In 2011 AAK was one of the founding members of the Board of Directors of The Postharvest Education Foundation.



AAK working with LK in India (2008)



AAK working with HYA and his team in Ghana (2009)