

Reducing Postharvest Losses & Food Waste

The Postharvest Education Foundation



Support hands-on training for reducing postharvest losses & food waste for young horticultural trainers from all around the world (Fundraising campaign -- 2014)

My name is Lisa Kitinoja and I'm the founder of The Postharvest Education Foundation. We need your help to provide educational programs for young people from a wide range of developing countries during 2014. The Postharvest Education Foundation is an Oregon, USA based non-profit 501(c) 3 charity dedicated to providing experiential, mentor guided education program aimed at reducing global food losses from the currently too high level of up to 50%. Our innovative "Global postharvest e-learning" program takes a whole year to complete, and the reward that we would like to offer the trainees who successfully complete this year's PEF 2014 program is the chance to attend a hands-on postharvest workshop and study tour.

We're training these young horticultural professionals via low cost internet based programs, with reading assignments, fieldwork on improved practices for fruit and vegetable handling, storage, processing and marketing. They submit written reports by email, and receive regular feedback and mentoring so the knowledge and skills they gain can be immediately applied toward solving the enormous food losses and waste problems occurring in their own countries. During 2013 our 34 graduates trained more than 2100 leader farmers and extension workers in 7 countries in Africa and South Asia. Most of them have jobs as extension agents, teachers or local consultants, and are involved in on-going agricultural development projects that include regular postharvest training events, so they have reported that the leaders they've trained have already trained in turn more than 28,000 additional farmers.

www.postharvest.org PO Box 38, La Pine, Oregon 97739 USA Phone: (916) 708 7218

This year's 30 e-learners are located in 14 different countries, from Bhutan to Zimbabwe. The workshop we're planning to offer for them will give our trainees the opportunity to meet one another in person for the first time, and to visit local farms, packinghouses and markets in Indonesia. Each trainee will receive a "Postharvest tool kit" and joins our growing global network of "postharvest specialists" who are working to reduce food losses.

In order to pay for some of the high costs of their postharvest tool kits and travel expenses for the workshop, we could really use your help. Please visit our website to make a donation via PayPal, or simply mail us a check (made out to The Postharvest Education Foundation). All donations will be acknowledged in writing.