

AFRICAN UNION

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Media Advisory

High level forum: AUC/FAO Support to regional capacity building to reduce post harvest losses

INVITATION TO THE MEDIA

- WHAT:** High level forum : AUC/FAO Support to regional capacity to reduce post harvest losses (Project number TCP/RAF/3311 (D))
- WHEN:** 17-18 October
- WHERE:** Desalegn Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- WHO:** The forum is being organized by the AU Commission's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- WHY:** The objective of the two day forum is to discuss areas in which to enhance regional capacity building to reduce post-harvest losses in Sub Saharan Africa, in support of CAADP (Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme) implementation in Africa. Specific objectives of the forum will be:
- Promoting ownership of the project: This will be demonstrated by the willingness of participants to arrive at a joint resolution or make a statement of intention to follow through the recommendations of the forum in their organizations or institutions.
 - Fine-tuning the content of the training workshops: the forum will deliberate on policy dimensions, capacity needs and, institutional frameworks and highlight areas that need focus in training in policy formulation on post-harvest management and loss reduction.
 - Identifying investment priorities in PHL reduction at national and regional levels in the context of the CAADP.
 - Enhancing synergies: The forum will recommend way forward in implementing the remaining project activities, including collaboration with other actors and linkages to other existing projects and programmes.

Participants: Participants will be ministers or permanent secretaries in national agriculture and related ministries, chief executive officers or heads of relevant department in public and private sectors, members of parliamentary committees, heads of research and knowledge institutions or other such high ranking personalities that can make or influence policy decisions at high level.

The draft agenda of the high level forum is attached.

Journalists are invited to cover the official opening ceremony at 09:00 on 17 October 2012 at Desalegn hotel

Media enquiries may be directed to Mrs. Wynne Musabayana on musabayanaw@africa-union.org



AUC/FAO High Level Forum:
Support to regional capacity building to reduce post harvest losses in sub-Saharan Africa
(Draft Agenda)

17-18 October 2012, Desalegn Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

DAY 1: Wednesday 17th October 2012

Time		Resource person
08:00 – 09:00	Registration of participants	
Opening Session		
09:00 – 09:45	Introduction of chairman	AUC
	Chairman's opening remarks	
	Welcome and opening address	AUC, Commissioner DREA
	Background, context, objectives and expected outcomes of the forum	FAO
	Keynote addresses	Castro Camarada and AUC, Commissioner DREA
	Chairman's closing remarks	
09:45 – 10:15	Coffee Break + Group Photo + Press interviews	
Session 1: Background to post-harvest losses in sub-Saharan Africa		
10:15 – 10:30	Welcome and introduction of participants	Participants
10:30 – 10:50	The changing landscape of African agriculture: Management of PH systems in the 21 st century	Stephanie Gallat
10:50 – 11:10	Link to CAADP: the role of PHLs in the CAADP framework	Komla Bissi
11:10 – 11:40	Related work and complimentary initiatives: sub-regional workshops, Missing Food, Global Food Waste, Virtual Post-harvest network etc.	Divine Njie
11:40 – 12:30	Plenary discussion	Participants
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
Session 2: Policy and institutional innovations that support post-harvest loss reduction		
14:00 – 14:30	Presentation of regional findings on policy and institutional innovations that support PHL reduction	Geoffrey Mrema
14.30 – 15:15	Expert panel: experiences and analysis of innovations	

	that support PHL reduction	
15:15 – 16:00	Plenary discussion	Participants
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30 – 17:00	Reflections on PHL issues and challenges from the regional perspective	Selected participants
17:00 – 17:15	Wrap up, housekeeping	

18:30 – 20:00	Networking Reception, Desalegn Hotel	
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DAY 2: Thursday 18th October 2012

Time		Resource person
8:30 – 08:45	Recap of Day 1	
<i>Session 3: Practical approaches to assessing, designing and monitoring PHL reduction interventions along the value chain</i>		
08:45 – 09:30	Feasibility, design and monitoring of PHL reduction interventions along the value chain	Stephanie Gallat
09:30 – 10:00	Plenary discussion	Participants
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 12:00	Group work: Policies, strategies and institutional mechanisms for integrating PHL reduction strategies into agricultural investment programmes	Participants
12:00 – 13:00	Reporting back to plenary: findings and recommendations from group discussions	Participants
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
<i>Session 4: Summary of key findings and recommendations</i>		
14:00 – 14:30	Wrap up: key findings, opportunities and recommendations of successful approaches to reducing post-harvest losses along the value chain	Divine Njie
14:30 – 15:00	Take home message: what messages/actions will participants follow up on after this meeting?	Participants
15:00 – 15:15	Evaluation of forum by participants	Participants
15:15 – 15:45	Official closing of forum	AUC

