

The Postharvest Education Foundation (USA)

E-Learning Program Calendar and Training Agenda 2015

AGENDA and Training Materials for 2015 Global Small-scale Postharvest E-Learning Program

Applications will be accepted from interested candidates during November through December 31, 2014, and applicants who have been accepted into the program will be contacted via email on January 6, 2015.

Registration is required along with full payment by January 31, 2015. Complete details on methods for registration and payment will be provided to trainees who have been accepted into the program.

Focus crops: Temperate, tropical and sub-tropical crops will be used as the focus of training, to ensure exposure to a range and wide variety of crops with different horticultural characteristics.

Training Activities: Ten assignments in postharvest horticulture. These will include reading assignments, gaining familiarity with reference works, website resources, postharvest loss assessments, quality evaluation, Commodity systems assessment, small-scale postharvest handling practices, cost/benefit analysis, and a variety of homework and fieldwork assignments to be conducted in your local area. A registration fee of \$600 will be charged for the training program, and no financial compensation will be provided for the time trainees spend on their assignments. Training materials will be posted online for free download, and mailed to each participant in January 2015 upon receipt of the registration fee (digital materials provided on a flash drive and/or CD). Feedback and mentoring will be provided by US and internationally based postharvest specialists from The Postharvest Education Foundation via email and web-based (interactive) processes.

Ten Assignments: TOPIC		REPORT or Assignment	Due date
1	Postharvest Training Needs Assessment: Comprehensive TNA self-administered survey	Survey to be self-administered, completed returned by email with a CV or resume if applicant is accepted into the program and registration fee is paid in full by Jan 31	31 January
2	Introduction to Postharvest Technology – objectives, issues, common sources of losses and quality problems, resources and information sources Sample training materials and websites: http://postharvest.ucdavis.edu http://www.ba.ars.usda.gov/hb66/content.s.html	Visit postharvest websites and review flash drive of postharvest training resources. Register for a free LinkedIn.com account Post your 3 favorite website links on the Postharvest Training group on LinkedIn	Please complete by 28 February
3	Introduction to Commodity Systems Assessment (CSA) Sample references: LaGra J. (1990) Commodity Systems Assessment Methodology	Reading assignments (selected chapters)	Please complete by 31 March

The Postharvest Education Foundation (USA)
E-Learning Program Calendar and Training Agenda 2015

Ten Assignments: TOPIC		REPORT or Assignment	Due date
4	<p>CSA field work exercise/homework assignment on collecting data on causes and sources of postharvest losses for one local crop of importance in your own country (desk study)</p> <p>Sample Training Materials: Sample CSA questionnaires Annex 11: Checklist</p>	<p>Report on local research, extension and advocacy needs to be submitted by email</p>	Due 30 April
5	<p>Small-scale postharvest technology options: Review of existing types of practices, appropriate scale practices, calculating local costs and benefits</p> <p>Sample Training Materials: Kitinoja and Kader (2002) Small Scale Postharvest Handling Practices Manual</p>	<p>Reading assignments on improved harvesting, handling, packing, pest mgmt, cooling, storage, transport and processing methods</p>	Please complete by 30 May
6	<p>Design of a simple postharvest demonstration suitable for educating local farmers/marketers on how to solve one of the postharvest problems identified during the CSA</p>	<p>Report to be submitted by email, including both technical and a cost/benefit worksheet</p>	Due 30 June
7	<p>Introduction to Extension methods for training in postharvest technology: Review of teaching practices, training aids</p> <p>Sample Training Materials: Horticultural Extension manual Chapter 38 of UC Davis Postharvest textbook Sample Postharvest Training and Services Center reports</p>	<p>Reading assignments</p>	Please complete by 30 July
8	<p>Design of a one day long training program on improved postharvest handling for horticultural farmers / marketers in your own country</p>	<p>Report to be submitted by email, includes estimated budget, audio-visual aids, preparation of training materials in English and in a local language</p>	Due 30 August
9	<p>The use of the postharvest tools and equipment for measuring quality and losses</p> <p>Sample Training Materials: Postharvest Tools and Supplies Kit manual</p>	<p>Reading assignment Gain familiarity with postharvest tools</p>	Please complete by 30 September

The Postharvest Education Foundation (USA)

E-Learning Program Calendar and Training Agenda 2015

Ten Assignments: TOPIC		REPORT or Assignment	Due date
10	Design a simplified Integrated Post Harvest Training and Services Center , for providing training, supplies and services for your own organization, village, district, state or country	Report with your design (be creative!) and a draft estimated budget, to be submitted by email	Due 15 October Completion certificates and Postharvest Tool Kits will be awarded to participants who successfully complete and submit all 4 reports by firm deadline of 15 November (no extensions beyond this date will be allowed)
Post	TRIP: on-site postharvest training event with PEF instructors Top 3 participants: Visit to an operational postharvest training center in India or in Tanzania, instruction in the use, calibration and maintenance of tools in the postharvest tool kit	Hands-on practices with postharvest tool kit; networking with fellow postharvest specialists. Implementation of a postharvest training program for members of farmers associations and cooperatives	To be scheduled for January or February of 2016

One trip (2 to 3 days) for eligible e-learners who can pay their own travel expenses to a project site in in January or February 2016, to visit an operational postharvest training center, network with local scientists and USA visiting postharvest specialists, participate in local training programs, demos and adaptive research studies, practice using and calibrating postharvest tools and equipment. PEF travel grants will be provided for the top 3 trainees (as judged by the PEF board of directors, based upon quality and timeliness of written reports and involvement in online discussions).

Postharvest tool kit -- includes tools such as a digital temperature probe, refractometer, color charts, calipers, sizing rings, digital scale, etc. for use in quality evaluation and postharvest loss assessments.

Upon the completion of the ToT program and submission of all 4 reports, each trainee will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. Trainees will gain knowledge and technical skills, build their confidence to implement follow-up postharvest training activities, consulting assignments, build local capacity in postharvest technology by working with local teams, practice using tools, doing interviews, collecting data, learning about their local issues, priority postharvest problems, research, extension and advocacy needs for horticultural crops. Trainees will be mentored by the project postharvest specialists, and will be provided with feedback and advice regarding their planned local educational programs beyond the end of the program.

Dr. Lisa Kitinoja

The Postharvest Education Foundation

A public benefit non-profit 501(c)3 corporation

Kitinoja@postharvest.org

www.postharvest.org

November 2014