Australia Awards – Africa

The Australian Government recognises that education develops skills and knowledge, builds enduring people, countries and professional links, and has the power to influence positive change. It is committed to the development of Africa’s human resources and continues to offer prestigious international scholarships and short courses known as Australia Awards.

Australia Awards offer the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. Award opportunities are offered annually and are managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Since 2011, Australia has offered more than 3700 Australia Awards to African scholars and professionals.

DFAT administered Australia Awards include scholarships, short courses and fellowships that aim to support the leadership needs of African professionals as well as effectively focus training on areas most relevant to Africa’s development priorities. Through study and practical experiences, scholars gain the skills and knowledge to drive economic and social development in their home country.

Priority sectors for Australia Awards – Africa include: Agricultural Productivity, Extractives and Public Policy.

Australia Africa Universities Network

The Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) is a group of leading universities in Australia and Africa, connecting researchers and academics through institutional partnerships in order to address challenges facing both continents.

Led by Professor John Hearn from the University of Sydney and Professor Cheryl de la Rey from the University of Pretoria, the network fosters the growing relationship between Australia and Africa by building on current educational links between the continents.

At a time when the environment is ideal for building successful partnership with African countries, the AAUN aims to further the Australian Government’s commitment to revitalising its relationship with Africa.

The establishment of the AAUN is integral in enabling Australia and Africa to work together creatively and innovatively to find new solutions to long-standing challenges.

Australia’s initiatives towards Millennium Development Goals in Africa form an important element in this relationship. Further, long-term growth and investment prospects in Africa are promising as several of the world’s fastest-growing economies can now be found in sub-Saharan Africa.
# Agenda

**Wednesday, 16 November 2016**

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<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Arrival, Take Seats</td>
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<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Innovating for Agricultural Impact: Lessons for Africa, Lessons for Australia</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prof George Chemining’wa, Chairman of the Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection, University of Nairobi</td>
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<td>Prof Robyn McConchie, on behalf of Prof John Hearn, co-chair, Australia Africa Universities Network</td>
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<td>Prof Peter M.F. Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi</td>
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<td>Hon Willy Bett, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries</td>
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<td>HE John Feakes, Australian High Commissioner to Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45am</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Panel 1: International Year of Pulses 2016</td>
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<td>Dr Bruce Pengelly on Sustainable Intensification of Maize and Legume Systems for Food Security in Eastern and Southern Africa (SIMLESA)</td>
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<td>Dr K. O. Falade, University of Ibadan</td>
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<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Panel 2: Gender, Agriculture and Innovation Platforms</td>
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<td>Prof Robyn McConchie, University of Sydney</td>
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<td>Dr Annet A. Mulema, International Livestock Research Institute</td>
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<td>Prof Margaret Jesang Hutchinson, Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection, University of Nairobi</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Panel 3: Value Chains and Innovation</td>
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<td>Dr Evelyne Kiptot, World Agroforestry Centre</td>
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<td>Dr Robert Marchant, University of York</td>
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<td>Dr Simon Wanjala Omondi, Kenya Agricultural &amp; Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)</td>
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<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>IDIAR Awardees Lightening Presentations</td>
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<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch plus Networking</td>
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<td>2:15pm</td>
<td>Working Group Session</td>
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<td>Working Group Report Backs</td>
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<td>3:45pm</td>
<td>Way Forward and Summary</td>
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<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Vote of Thanks, Close</td>
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Joint AAUN
Australia Awards
Agricultural Research Symposium

Background to Presenters

George N. Chemining’wa
Head, Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection, University of Nairobi

Professor George N. Chemining’wa is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection at the University of Nairobi. He is an agricultural scientist specialized in agronomy. He has BSc Agriculture (University of Nairobi), MSc Agronomy (University of Nairobi) and PhD (University of Manitoba). George has coordinated and collaborated in 18 projects dealing with crop management, crop improvement, value chains, postharvest handling, wetlands, rural innovation and integrated agricultural research for development (IAR4D).

For the last six years, George’s research has focused on developing technologies for enhancing productivity of beans. He is experienced in facilitating rural innovation processes, having jointly implemented an EDULINK project (2008-2012) on Strengthening of University Capacity for Promoting, Facilitating and Teaching Rural Innovation Processes (SUCAPI). He has partnered with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries in technology development and dissemination as well as policy development. He worked as an Agricultural Extension Officer in the same ministry for three years before joining the University of Nairobi as a lecturer in 1995.

Currently, George serves as the Assistant Secretary of the Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services-Kenya (KeFAS) whose main objective is to improve the delivery and quality of agricultural advisory services in Kenya. He was a member of the national taskforce that spearheaded the development of the current national agricultural research policy. He has made over 65 scientific contributions in refereed journals, conference proceedings, and books in the areas of agronomy, horticulture, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management and rural innovation processes. He has been an active contributor in his profession, being a core member of Integrated Agricultural Research for Development National Initiative since 2005, and a reviewer for many journals including the Horticultural Association of Kenya Journal, the East African Agricultural and Forestry Journal, the KARI Biennial Scientific conference and Soil Science Society of East Africa.

Kolawole O. Falade
Head, Department of Food Technology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Professor Kolawole O. Falade is the Head of the Department of Food Technology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Falade also holds an MSc degree in International Management from the University of Reading, UK. His current research interests include the investigation of the physical, functional and physicochemical properties of roots and tubers, pulses and grains as affected by processing, including γ-irradiation and extrusion technologies. Falade has published over 65 articles in reputable journals. He has been awarded fellowships including the prestigious Fulbright Fellowship (2009), Mashav Fellowship (2011) and Commonwealth Fellowship (2013). Falade has conducted research as principal investigator of grants including those awarded by the AAUN PRDF, MacArthur Multidisciplinary Research, International Foundation for Science and the Senate Research Grant of the University of Ibadan. Falade has completed supervision of 3 PhD candidates and well over 40 BSc and MSc students. He teaches food plant design, food process engineering, food processing and preservation.

HE John Feakes
Australian High Commissioner to Kenya

Mr Feakes commenced as Australia’s High Commissioner to Kenya on 6 January 2015. He had most recently been Chargé d’Affaires in Lebanon and before that in Jordan. Prior to this, he was Senior Civilian Representative in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan (January-May 2013). He has previously served overseas as Deputy Head of Mission, Australian High Commission, Port Moresby (2008-2012); Minister-Counsellor (Office of National Assessment Liaison), Australian Embassy, Washington DC (2004-2007); First Secretary later Counsellor, Australian High Commission, Port Moresby (2002-2003); and First Secretary, Australian Embassy, Manilla (1996-1998).

In Canberra, he has served as Assistant Secretary, Policy Planning Branch (February-October 2012); Assistant Secretary, Strategic Affairs Branch (2007-2008); Director, Solomon Islands Section (2003-2004); and Executive Officer, Middle East and Africa Branch (1994-1996). He served as an Adviser at the International Division of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (1998-2000), on secondment from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Prior to joining DFAT, he worked at the Department of Defence (1992-1994).
Margaret Jesang Hutchinson
Associate Professor of Horticulture, University of Nairobi

Professor Margaret Jesang Hutchinson has over 35 years’ experience in various fields of research, extension/outreach and teaching. She holds a PhD in Horticulture from University of Guelph, Canada and undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Nairobi. Her research and outreach interests include horticulture, food security, gender and agriculture at both policy and program levels. She is a Senior Trainer with the Africa Lead program for Champions for Change in the Greater Horn of Africa and Southern Africa.

Margaret has held several positions relating to gender. She was Program Coordinator for over 12 years with the Kenya Professional Association for Women in Agriculture an Environment, where she managed a girlchild scholarship and mentoring program. She was also Executive Director for Education Centre for Women and Democracy and Women Direct for five years across six African countries, which focused on promoting women participation in positions of leadership and decision making. She has been College Representative and PI, African Women Studies Centre, where she was involved in gender analysis of policy documents and project coordination around t Article 43 (1) C of the Constitution; the right to food. She is a Mentor with the AWARD program, Associate Mentor at University in Nairobi and mentor for women in church. Margaret has consulted in areas of Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture and Coating the Gender Gap in Agriculture. She has published over 44 papers in refereed journals, 22 in refereed proceedings and has presented several position papers in international and national workshops, seminars and conferences.

Rob Marchant
Reader in Ecosystem Dynamics, Environment Department, University of York

Dr Rob Marchant is a Reader in Ecosystem Dynamics in the Environment Department at the University of York where he leads The York Institute of Ecosystem Dynamics (KITE: https://www.york.ac.uk/environment/research/kite/). KITE is now recognised as one of the leading groups internationally in the area of understanding ecosystem change and managing the impacts of environmental change in East Africa. The KITE group has developed methods across a range of traditional scientific disciplines to understand ecosystem response to climate change and human interaction in the past, at the present and into the future. With this multi- and interdisciplinary approach Rob Marchant has published in more than 120 book chapters and research papers; the majority of these publications appear in high impact environmental science journals. Research into impacts of climate change on ecosystem functioning is increasingly applied, particularly in the area of ecosystem services, livelihoods and resilience of natural systems to climate change. Research output from the KITE group are being used by a combination within government institutions and conservation NGOs to address socioeconomic issues concerning longterm ecosystem management, in particular on ecosystem services of East Africa. All KITE research has been conducted in close collaboration with institutions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda; Rob has supervised 27 PhD students (11 from East African countries), nine Post-Doctoral research fellows, and run a series of training courses across East African Universities around Climate Change, Geospatial and numerical analysis.

Evelyne Kiptot
Social Scientist, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

Dr Evelyne Kiptot is a Social Scientist at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Nairobi, Kenya. She holds a PhD degree in Social Science from Wageningen University, Netherlands, a master’s degree from Bangor University, Wales, United Kingdom and a bachelor’s degree in Forestry from Moi University, Kenya. At ICRAF, she leads an ACIAR funded project on ‘Developing Value Chain Innovation Platforms to Improve Food Security in East and Southern Africa’. The project is operational in Zambia and Uganda. Evelyne’s research focuses on innovative extension approaches, innovation platforms, gender, local knowledge systems and technology adoption. Prior to joining ICRAF in 2011, she worked with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute where she researched on adoption of agroforestry technologies and local knowledge systems of the Maasai and Akamba communities. She has published widely on gender issues in agroforestry, technology adoption, farmer-to-farmer extension and local knowledge systems.

Peter M.F. Mbithi
Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi

Professor Peter Mulwa Felix Mbithi is the Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Veterinary Surgery, University Of Nairobi (UoN). Born in 1956, Prof Mbithi graduated from the UoN with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) in 1983 and MSc in Clinical Studies in 1985. In 1995 he completed his PhD at UoN. Between 1995 and 2003 he was Chairman, Department of Clinical Studies; in 2003 he was elected as the Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine until he was appointed as the Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences in 2004. In 2005 he was competitively appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, a position he held until 2015. He was appointed the Vice Chancellor UoN in January 2015.
Robyn McConchie  
Professor of Horticulture, Pro Dean, Head, Department of Plant and Food Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, University of Sydney

Professor Robyn McConchie is Head of the Department of Plant and Food Sciences in the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment at the University of Sydney. She has been involved in postharvest research and education for over 30 years working on minimising pesticide use, and more recently food safety, grain storage and development of functional foods from waste. Robyn has led many international research and capacity building projects in postharvest and linking farmers to markets across SE Asia, the Pacific and Africa. For the past three years she has been working to address food security issues across 22 African countries, through improved storage and safety of grains.

From 2006 - 2010 Robyn was Director of the University’s Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific. She is currently a none executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, a Director of the Fresh Produce Safety Centre and is immediate past chair of the Education, Research Training & Consultancy Commission of the International Society for Horticultural Science.

Annet Abenakyo Mulema  
Social Scientist – Gender, International Livestock Research Institute

Dr Annet Abenakyo Mulema is a sociologist working for the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) as a Social Scientist-Gender. She is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She attained a PhD in Sociology and Sustainable Agriculture from Iowa State University, USA; a MSc in Management of Agro-ecological Knowledge and Sociotechnical Change from Wageningen University, The Netherlands; and a BSc in Agriculture from Makerere University, Uganda. She conducts gender strategic and integrated research in value chain development, animal health, feeds and forages and intensification of mixed croplivestock farming systems. Annet’s career includes over nine years’ experience during which she has conducted research in Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, USA, and Zimbabwe, in various fields including gender analysis, agricultural innovation platforms, value chain analysis, women’s empowerment, gender capacity development, food systems, natural resource management and climate change.

Annet has also taught undergraduate courses on gender and development. She has coauthored several publications including journal articles, technical reports and briefs, books and book chapters, working documents, workshop and conference proceedings and training manuals. Before joining ILRI, she worked for the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) in Harare-Zimbabwe; Practical Action in Nairobi-Kenya, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Kampala-Uganda and the National Agricultural Research Organization, Serere-Uganda. She has won several awards, fellowships and scholarships including ‘AWARD’ - a prestigious fellowship for impressive, talented and motivated African Women in Agricultural Research and Development.

Simon Wanjala Omondi  
Research Scientist, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)

Dr Simon Wanjala Omondi is a Research Scientist in value chains at Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO). He holds PhD in Agribusiness Management (specialization value chains) from Kenyatta University and master’s degree in Agricultural Value Chain Management from Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Simon has long working experience in agricultural research projects since 1984 when he started his career with Kenya Agricultural Research Institute. He has experiences in analyzing value chains in Europe, South Africa and Eastern Africa region.

Simon has facilitated capacity building of scientists in KALRO in the mainstreaming of Agricultural Products Value Chain Approach (APVC). He is also a facilitator of workshops and field projects on value chain approach in Kenya and Uganda. As a researcher, Simon has published seven papers in refereed journals, several papers in conference proceedings, two extension brochures, four video documentaries, and authored several reports and articles. He is also a reviewer of thesis and projects on agricultural value chains. His main interest is in creating agricultural value chain impact models for smallholders through a learning-by-doing approach.

Bruce Pengelly  
Director, Pengelly Consultancy Pty Ltd.

Dr Bruce Pengelly has had almost 50 years’ experience in international tropical agricultural research and its management. In his 44 years with CSIRO, Bruce conducted research on tropical forages for northern Australian beef industry and in the conservation and study of the genetic diversity of tropical forages internationally. He was the curator and manager of the Australian Tropical Forages Genetic Resources Centre for almost 20 years. From 2003, his role moved to senior management in CSIRO and to leadership in CSIRO’s international agricultural Research for Development portfolio. Since 2013 he has been a private consultant in international agricultural research, with most of his work being focused in African agricultural systems.

He is a member of the selection committee for the Churchill Fellowships in Queensland, Australia, and is the Queensland Coordinator of the Crawford Fund, a not-for-profit NGO devoted to building Australia’s contribution to International agricultural research for development. His contribution to science and international research has been recognised his CSIRO Lifetime Achievements Award (2013), BecA (Bioscience for East and Central Africa) Partner of the year (2011), Medal of Officer de l’Ordre National du Burkina Faso for his contribution to improving agricultural production and food security, and the 2014 CORAF-WECARD Award for “Contribution to Agriculture in West and Central Africa.”
Make a difference with an Australia Awards Short Course
Agriculture: Applications are now open

The Australian Government is offering prestigious development scholarships to African professionals. Through study and practical experiences, scholars will gain the skills and knowledge to drive economic and social development in their home country.

Australia Awards Short Courses (2017 intake):
Targeted professional development in specialised fields delivered in both Africa and Australia.
Apply by 15 January 2017

Agricultural Productivity remains a priority sector for Australia Awards Short Courses in 2017. Scholars can choose to study a Short Course focused on areas such as sustainable farming systems, innovation platforms and market development.

To view other priority sectors, check your country page on the Australia Awards website. The application process is open and competitive, providing equal opportunity regardless of gender, ethnicity or disability.

The Australian Government strongly encourages applications from women and persons with disability. Mechanisms are in place to support the participation of applicants and Awardees requiring specific assistance.

For more information go to:
www.australiaawardsafrica.org