



**FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM OF KENYA (FoSTeP-K)**  
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### **About Food Science and Technology platform of Kenya**

Food Science and Technology Platform of Kenya (FOSTEP-K) is a registered association that brings together professionals in food science and technology, nutrition and related disciplines. Our main objective is to provide a platform for interaction that facilitates the attainment of Food and Nutrition Security and Safety through intellectual networking, capacity building and policy advocacy as well as provision of mentorship for young professionals. Our membership includes food industry workers, academia, government bodies and non-governmental organizations that currently stands at least 120 professionals.

### **Activities undertaken in 2017**

#### **CODEX CCAFRICA 2017**

The 22nd Session of the FAO/WHO Regional Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) was hosted by the government of Kenya at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and was attended by at least 300 delegates from 22 Member countries. The Session was chaired by Dr. Moses Gichia, Deputy Director of the State Department of Livestock of Kenya and assisted by Dr. Calvin Onyango-Research Scientist cereal, Root and tuber crops, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute and Dr. George Ooko Abong', Lecturer-University of Nairobi and the current chair of the Food Science and Technology Platform of Kenya (FoSTeP-K, IUFOST adhering body). Dr. George Ooko Abong' and Dr. Calvin Onyango chaired the in-session meetings on the draft regional Codex standards on Shea butter and fermented cooked cassava based products, respectively. The regional Codex standards were later commented on by the delegates and adopted as African Region Codex food standards. The International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST) held an informative side event on the final day of CODEX meeting. This was besides IUFOST having organized in conjunction with FoSTeP-K a Food Safety Symposium at the Laico Regency Hotel.



The CODEX meeting was graced by Government of Kenya officials led by The Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Blue Economy, Mr. Willy Bett and Mr Adan Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Co-operatives who addressed the delegates and opened the meeting formally. The president of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), Awilo Ochieng Pernet, and the Codex Secretary also gave their remarks.

### **IUFOST CCAFRICA22 SIDE EVENT**



### **Opening session: George, Judith and Ruth**

The IUFoST Codex side event took place on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at the plenary section of the Intercontinental Hotel. This event featured opening remarks by Judith Meech on IUFoST as an International professional body and CODEX observer. This was followed by presentations on the role of Food Science Professional bodies in Standards Development by Hon. Prof. Ruth Oniang'o, IAFOST President and FoSTeP-K Patron and Importance of science in food standards and regulation development by Prof. Kiiyukia Ciira, of Mt. Kenya University. Dr. Gerald Moy gave an elaborate presentation on how food businesses can be shaped through codex standards, while Dr. Pamela Byrne (Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) presented an informative aspects of the Science of Risk Assessment and Risk Communication. The session ended with short presentation by Dr. George Abong' on Global and regional Food Safety curriculum and a short discussion on way forward.



### **Prof.Kiiyukia, Dr. Moy and Dr.Bryne giving presentations to the Codex IUFoST Side event at the Food safety Symposium 2017**



### **Participants at the Food safety symposium held at Laico Regency Hotel Nairobi, Kenya**

A one day food safety symposium was held at the Laico Regency, Nairobi on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2017. The symposium was organized by Food Science and Technology Platform of Kenya (FoSTeP-K) with support from International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST) and was attended by 106 participants including local and international partners (at least 12 countries being represented), who are keen to form strong linkages with African countries even as the continent races to improve its food safety systems. The symposium was chaired by Dr. George Abong', a lecturer from the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Technology, University of Nairobi and the current chair of the FoSTeP-K and was officially opened by Judith Meech (IUFOST Secretary General, Canada), Hon. Prof. Ruth Oniang'o (IAFOST President and FoSTeP-K Patron, Kenya) and Dr. Cheikh Ndiaye (Consultant, Senegal). Interactive sessions with seasoned food safety experts included key aspects such as: current food safety scenario in Kenya and Uganda (Prof. Archileo Kaaya); Misconceptions and misinformation on Food Additives with special emphasis on salt (Dr. Ing. Donald Mercer, Canada); Role of Food Industries in assuring Food Safety in Kenya, Mr. Kevin Ouma (Tropical Heat Ltd) and Mr. Alex Ngahu (Nestle Kenya Ltd); Food Safety Concerns of GMOs, Prof. T. Mutui of National Biosafety Authority of Kenya; European labelling approaches to promote consumer education and selection of packaged foods, Dr. Pamela Byrne (Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)); Contribution of African Higher education to food safety, Prof. Anakalo Shitandi, Kisii University, Kenya. Group discussions featured a number of topics in the area of Food Science and the Global Food Safety Curriculum being developed by IUFOST with support from the World Bank. The department of Food Science, Nutrition and Technology University of Nairobi had great interest especially on the curriculum development. They were represented by Chairman of the department and other staff members.

### **World of food science**

World of food science is an annual publication of IUFOST that publishes aspects of food science, nutrition and food safety. In 2017, a special issue that focused on African food situation was published following joint effort of the main editor, Prof. Kenneth Buckle and FoSTeP-K Chair, Dr. George Abong'. A good number of articles from Kenya made it to the list of articles in this issue.

The 1<sup>st</sup> African Post-harvest Conference 2017



## **African Food Manufacturing & Safety Symposium (AFMASS) 2017**

The African Food Manufacturing & Safety Symposium (AFMASS) brought together investors, managers and professionals, suppliers, Government agencies and NGOs from the food and beverage supply chain in Africa and the World. FoSTeP-K participated as associate partners and exhibitors and the Patron and Chairman, Prof. Ruth Oniang'o and Dr. George Ooko Abong' played critical roles as a panelist and a moderator, respectively. The AFMASS conference focused on current and emerging issues in Africa's food and beverage storage, distribution, manufacturing, packaging, food service, marketing, retailing and consumer safety in Africa with an aim of promoting safer and quality food products to consumers. Presentations made at the conference were by experts with special focus to the entire food chain. There were Panel Discussions and networking sessions as well and a side event on technical presentations on grains, milling, baking and animal feed industry



**John Bee from Nestle', Abidjan and interact with FoSTeP-K members (left) while on the right FoSTeP-K Patron is involved in a discussion with other exhibitors at AFMASS**

## **Mentorship: Egerton University**

In the general meeting held in December 2016, one of the resolutions was to initiate the young food science professionals' mentorship program. The program aimed at giving the young scientists some practical insights on the job market, opportunities and potential challenges, would be through University visits. To make the program a success, FoSTeP-K would find potential sponsors and partners to widen the scope and avail funds to cater for the logistics. Fast forward and in May 2017 through intensive planning and networking, the first of the sessions was held at Egerton University through partnership with Nestle, the giant global food processor. African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND) were also present to give the early guidance on research work publishing. The department of Dairy & Food Science and Technology (DFST) was the host with staff and students led by the chairman Professor Abdul Faraj making it a worthwhile event.



**Pius Mathi, FoSTeP-K org. sec speaking to the students attendees keenly following proceedings at Egerton University**

### **Institute of Food Technologist (IFT) 2017**

During the 2017 IFT event held in Las Vegas, USA, FoSTeP-K was represented by two members: Pius Mathi as a mentor to a group of emerging leaders, while Dr. Abong' was invited as a volunteer committee member of the emerging leaders working group. Since 2013, IFT has continued to collaborate with FoSTeP-K through leadership training and having members in working groups. This collaboration has been beneficial in developing local leadership and we look forward to embrace such a good network.



**IFT Cocktail and Exhibition hall at Las Vegas, USA 2017**

### **Early Career Section of IUFoST (ECSS)**

Dr. George Abong', current chair of FoSTeP-K was nominated to be among the 5 early career scientists that are to spearhead its formal structure and anchor it as part of the IUFoST. A key role of the steering committee is to come up with by-laws to guide the section and organize activities in annual congresses that will involve early careers. To this end, by-laws are at advanced state and discussions are ongoing as planning for Mumbai 2018 gears up



## Inaugural AOAC Sub-Saharan Section



Dr. Abong was privileged to be part of the inaugural steering committee for the Association of Analytical Chemists (AOAC) Sub-Saharan section (SSAS), main roles being to draw up the vision, mission and work plan of the section that would link SSAS with rest of the world. AOAC develops analytical methods that follow wide scientific consultation and we are keen to make African contribution considering differences in food and feed matrix from the region. At the workshop also discussed were analytical methods alignment (MAP) an idea championed by Nestle, in order to level analytical field using validated and authenticated methods. Issues of proficiency tests and reference matrix (South Africa have started developing this) were also discussed at length. Insight and information gained is useful and will make contributions towards alignment of some common methods in microbiology and nutrition platform.

## PAEN AND FOSTEP-K 2018 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

FoSTeP-K has partnered with Pan African Agricultural Engineering Society to organize a conference slated for 25-28 March, 2018. Other critical partners include African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND) and Rural Outreach Programme. FoSTeP-K is represented by George Abong and Pius Mathi in the organizing committee that has been holding planning meetings in Nairobi for the last 5 months. This conference will be preceded with 2 workshops: Scholarly writing and publication workshop to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, and Food safety and analytical methods workshop to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017.



Organizing committee members during a meeting at Fairmount Hotel, Nairobi

**Upcoming activities**

1. FoSTeP-K Annual General Meeting in December 2017
2. Egerton University mentorship meeting, February 2018
3. Conference, March 2018
4. IUFoST Congress, October 2018