



Kenya National Research Festival 2025





18th- 22nd August 2025



Q EGERTON UNIVERSITY, NJORO





Introduction

Research plays a pivotal role in shaping the course of nations, fostering innovation and technologies, and addressing critical societal challenges. In recognition of the transformative power of research, the National Research Fund (NRF) introduced the Kenya National Research Festival, which is dedicated to cultivating discourse, igniting synergies, fostering collaboration, and promoting growth through the exchange of knowledge within the research community and stakeholders.

This year's festival will be hosted in partnership with Egerton University and will bring together researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, and innovators to explore cutting-edge advancements in research. The festival is themed, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, empowering Communities through Research, Science, Technology, and Innovation, and will highlight transformative solutions to enhance food production, resilience, and sustainability.

The festival will serve as a platform for driving research-led innovations and technologies that directly impact grassroots communities, strengthen agricultural value chains, and promote inclusive economic growth. It is aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDGs 1 and 2, Africa's Agenda 2063, Vision 2030, and Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). It will also accelerate practical, scalable solutions that advance food security, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods for all Kenyans through partnerships between research institutions, the private sector, and government stakeholders.

The festival serves as a dynamic platform to showcase the nation's research endeavours, outline plans, celebrate achievements, and facilitate invaluable networking opportunities among participants from research institutions, Ministries, Counties, Departments and Agencies (MCDAs), the private sector, industrialists, professionals, entrepreneurs, leaders, policymakers, students (primary, secondary and tertiary), scientists, youth, media, development partners, NGOs, funding agencies, philanthropists and the general public.

Objectives

Purpose of the Festival

The festival seeks to foster collaboration between researchers, producers, policymakers, industry leaders and the communities to drive impactful solutions in sustainable agriculture and food security. It will provide a dynamic platform to showcase cutting-edge research, emerging technologies, and innovative practices that can be scaled to enhance community resilience, food systems, and economic empowerment across Kenya. The theme of this year's festival will be achieved through the following specific objectives.

Specific Objectives

i. To build resilience to changing weather conditions through adapting climate-smart agriculture.

Promote innovative seed systems, soil and water management practices, biodiversity conservation, integrated pest management and precision agriculture to improve climate adaptation and food security.

ii. To improve food productivity, diversity, quality and nutrition by strengthening Food Systems

Showcase innovations in food safety, farm inputs, mechanization, postharvest management, biofortification, insects for food and feeds, and organic farming to ensure access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food.

iii. To enhance livestock productivity by product diversification, commercialization, and improved quality of services.

Advance research and commercialization of livestock products, quality services, aquaculture, apiculture, and rangeland management for increased productivity and income generation.

iv. To Increase and Accelerate Agricultural technologies and Digital Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture

Explore the role of drones, AI, IoT, robotics, block-chain, GIS, biotechnology and nanotechnology in enhancing efficiency, productivity, and market access for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.

v. To promote natural resource conservation for the enhancement of ecosystem services.

Promote integrated solutions in catchment conservation, water use efficiency, groundwater recharge, regeneration agriculture, nature-based solutions, water storage development conflict resolutions and ecosystem restoration to address food security challenges.

vi. To enhance access to food through expansion and improvement of agricultural markets and trade.

Showcase opportunities for market linkages, access, value addition, financing models, cottage industries, commodity groups and gender-inclusive approaches to boost agricultural commercialization and economic inclusion.

vii. To diversify benefits from waste products through circular economy.

Advocate for innovative waste management, biochar technology for energy production, soil amendment and water filtration, composting, insect conversion of waste to protein, frass as compost, and sustainable land use practices to improve soil health and reduce environmental impact.

viii. To create awareness and opportunities for agricultural financing.

Facilitate discussions and showcasing innovative financing models, public-private partnerships, farm input hire purchase and risk management solutions (such as crop and livestock insurance) to empower farmers and agribusinesses with accessible funding for growth and sustainability.

ix. To unpack the policy environment to enhance sustainable agriculture and food security.

Provide a platform for policy discussions on land use management, coordination between national and county governments, agricultural extension services and stakeholder engagement.



Festival Focus Areas

The focus areas are aligned to the global, regional and national development priorities, emphasizing agricultural productivity, climate resilience, economic inclusion, and food security. The festival aims to drive evidence-based solutions that enhance sustainable livelihoods, strengthen value chains, and promote agribusiness growth for long-term national prosperity through the following focus areas.

- a. Climate-smart agriculture and resilience building
- b. Food Systems and Nutrition Security
- c. Sustainable Livestock systems
- d. Agro-Technology and Innovation for Resilience
- e. Water management and environmental resources conservation
- f. Market Access, Value Chains, and Social Equity
- g. Circular Economy and Nature-based Solutions in Agriculture
- h. Financing agriculture and agribusiness
- i. Policy environment for sustainable agriculture and food security

Festival Duration and Structure

a. Duration and Venue

The festival is planned to take place at Egerton University, Njoro Campus from 18th -22nd August 2025.

b. Structure of the Event

The festival will take the following format.

- i. Field Demonstration and tent exhibitions
- ii. Keynote addresses and Panel Discussions
- iii. Round Table Discussions
- iv. Training
- v. Poster Presentations
- vi. Side Events
- vii. Pitching by Companies and raffle awards
- viii. Networking activities
- ix. Excursions
- x. Awards



Participation

a. Exhibitions

Space for exhibitors will be availed through exhibition booths, tents, and demonstration plots. Exhibitors are encouraged to book as early as possible due to limited spaces.

b. Poster Presentations

There will be competitive poster presentations on the focus areas.

c. How to Participate

Further details can be obtained from the NRF Website: www.nrf.go.ke



Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes are as follows:

- i. Increased adoption of climate-smart farming practices.
- ii. Improved food productivity, quality, diversity and nutrition value.
- iii. Enhanced livestock productivity, product diversification, commercialization and quality of services.
- iv. Increased and accelerated adoption of agricultural technologies and digital innovations.
- v. Increased adoption of sustainable natural resource conservation measures.
- vi. Enhanced access to food and improved agricultural markets and trade.
- vii. Reduced agricultural waste through innovative recycling and reuse.
- viii. Increased farmer access to credit and insurance.
- ix. Strengthened policy frameworks supporting sustainable agriculture and food security.



Partnership

The organizers invite strategic partners to participate as sponsors, exhibitors, side event hosts and/or in-kind contributors/any other support. More details on how to partner can be obtained here: www.nrf.go.ke



About the National Research Fund

The National Research Fund (NRF) was established under the Science, Technology, and Innovation Act No. 28 of 2013, mandated to mobilize, allocate and manage financial resources to facilitate research for the advancement of science, technology, and innovation. NRF is committed to the advancement of national development through R&D initiatives. www.nrf.go.ke



Programme Overview

Date	Time	Meeting/Activity	Target Participants
Monday, 18 th August 2025	8.00 am – 8.30 am	Registration	All
	9.00 am – 10:30 am	Expert keynote address and panel on food security	All
	10.30 am – 12:30 pm	Training sessions for community and researchers	
	9.00 am -5:00 pm	Festival Set up	Exhibitors & del- egates
	2:00 pm – 5.00 pm	Excursions at Egerton UniversityLord Egerton Castle	> Students
Tuesday, 19 th August 2025	8.00 am – 8.30 am	Registration	All
	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Building resilience to changing weather conditions through adapting climate-smart agriculture.	All
		Keynote address:	
		Panel Discussions:	
	12.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch Break	
	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Improve food productivity, diversity, quality and nutrition by strengthening Food Systems. Round Table/Panel Discussions	 Primary and Secondary schools Higher Learning Institutions Government and Private Bodies
	8.00 am – 5.00 pm	Exhibitions and Displays	> All

Date	Time	Meeting/Activity	Target Participants
Wednes-day 20 th August 2025	8.00 am – 8.30 am	Registration	All
	9.00 am – 10.30 pm	To enhance livestock productivity by product diversification, commercialization, and improved quality of services. Keynote address: Panel Discussions	All
	10.30 am – 1.00pm	Official Opening Ceremony Tree planting	
	1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch Break	
	2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Promote natural resource conservation for the enhancement of ecosystem services. Round Table/Panel Discussions	 Researchers Policy Makers Industry players Development partners MCDA's
	8.00 am – 5.00 pm	Exhibitions and Displays	All
	6:00 pm	Gala Dinner/cocktail	Invite only

Date	Time	Meeting/Activity	Target Participants
Thursday 21st August 2025	8.00 am – 8.30 am	Registration	All
	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	To Increase and Accelerate Agricultural technologies and Digital Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture.	All
		Keynote address:	
		Panel Discussions	
	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	To diversify benefits from waste products through circular economy.	
		Round Table/Panel Discussions	
	12.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch Break	
	2.00 pm-4.30 pm	To create awareness and opportunities for agricultural financing.	Students
		Panel Discussion	
		To enhance access to food through expansion and improvement of agricultural markets and trade.	
		Keynote address:	
		Panel Discussions	
	8.00 am – 5.00 pm	Exhibitions and Displays	All
Friday, 22 nd August 2025	8.00 am – 8.30 am	Registration	All
	9.00 am – 11.00 pm	To unpack the policy environment to enhance sustainable agriculture and food security.	All
		Round Table Discussion	
	8.00 am – 2.00 pm	Exhibitions and Displays	All
	11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Awards and closing ceremony.	All
	1.30 pm	Lunch and Departures	All

Students to be sourced from the Directorate of Marketing and resource mobilization Egerton University.
 Participants in the panel discussion can join the exhibition during the lunch breaks.

Diamond KES 5,000,000

- Exhibition booth (Negotiated Size)
- Keynote speech during the opening ceremony
- VIP panel at the official opening ceremony
- Short remarks at plenary sessions of choice
- Eight festival delegate passes
- Opportunity to host side events
- Strategically placed banners
- Full page advert on the programme
- Logo on the Festival Website, Banners and Programme
- Brand exposure on all events publicity platforms
- Opportunity to engage young and career researchers
- Mention throughout the event
- Opportunity to run publicity video clips

Platinum KES 3,000,000

- Exhibition booth (Negotiated Size)
- VIP panel at the official opening ceremony
- Short remarks at plenary sessions of choice
- Four festival delegate passes
- Opportunity to host side events
- Strategically placed banners
- Half page advert on the programme
- Logo on the Festival Website, Banners and Programme
- Opportunity to engage young and career researchers
- Mention in opening and closing ceremonies

GoldKES 1,000,0000

- Exhibition booth (6X3 Meters)
- Short remarks at plenary sessions of choice
- Three festival delegate pass
- Opportunity to host side event
- Strategically placed banners
- Quarter page advert on the programme
- Logo on the Festival Website, Banners and Programme
- Opportunity to engage young and career researchers
- Mention in opening and closing ceremonies

Silver KES 500,000

- Exhibition booth (4X3 Meters)
- Three festival delegate passes
- Opportunity to host side event
- Strategically placed banners
- Logo on the Festival Website, Banners and Programme
- Opportunity to engage young and career researchers
- Mention in opening and closing ceremonies

Bronze KES 300,000

- Exhibition booth (3x2 Meters)
- Two festival delegate passes
- Strategically placed banners
- Logo on the Festival Website, Banners and Programme
- Opportunity to engage young and career researchers
- Mention in opening and closing ceremonies

Negotiated Support/In-Kind

- One festival delegate passes
- Strategically placed banners
- Logo on the Festival Website, Banners and Programme
- Opportunity to engage young and career researchers

Value Proposition

- Build Partnerships and Collaborations Local and International Research Institutions and Universities; Private sector; Funders; and NGOs
- Pre-festival Activities incorporating Basic and Tertiary institutions to showcase research and innovation
- Marketing opportunities for the private sector, Universities, Banking, and investment opportunities to uptake research outputs
- Engage Relevant Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Counties who will participate to drum support and drive policy
- 5 Dissemination of research outputs and innovation in Kenya over the last 10 years
- 6 Drive Government Manifesto and Agenda Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)

