



The 13<sup>th</sup> International  
Working Conference on  
Stored Product Protection



Makerere University



## Concept Note

### 13<sup>th</sup> International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection (13<sup>th</sup> IWCSPP)

**Date:** 19 – 23 October 2026

**Venue:** Kampala, Uganda, Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort and Conference Centre

**Theme:** “Advancing research, technology, and innovations in stored product protection for sustainable trade, food and nutrition security”

#### BACKGROUND

Stored products here include all postharvest agricultural products that do not require refrigeration and can be stored for several months under proper conditions. Therefore, a pest of stored products can refer to any organism, such as fungi, bacteria, insects, mites, rodents, and birds, that infests and damages stored agricultural raw and processed products: food, paper, fabrics, leather, carpets, wood, and heritage artifacts in homes, offices, and museums. Agricultural products produced for human consumption or animal feed are in one way or the other stored and consumed later or further processed to a final product, and therefore, their protection against pests is critical in ensuring their availability, and quality.

Stored product protection is particularly important for Africa where more than 50% of its people earn a livelihood from agriculture, which is dominated by the production of maize millet, teff, sorghum, rice, and wheat for cereals and cowpeas, dry beans, groundnut, chickpea and Bambara groundnut for pulses. These grains have a better shelf life and can be stored for longer periods. However, low investment in science, technology, and innovation development, especially in stored product protection means that up to 100% annual grain losses are commonly experienced in Africa. No wonder, Africa is a net importer of food with more than USD 50 billion, and still increasing, spent on food imports per year. Additionally, the urgency for investment in stored product protection is accentuated by the fact that global population is increasing and requires nourishing, a quest complicated by climate change, which is affecting availability of water for production, it is raising ambient temperatures and resulting in frequent extreme weather events, and severely affecting agricultural production. Therefore, protecting agricultural harvests not only safeguards investments in agricultural production e.g., seeds, fertilizer, water, money and labour, but will increase resilience to climate change. On the other hand, climate change with political power struggles, has displaced people internally and externally. For example, Uganda has a sizeable population of internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers whose subsistence is largely met through humanitarian dry food rations. This food requires preservation to proportionately address individual and household food needs in the short and long term.

The protection of stored products from insect infestation and deterioration from molds and bacteria requires the support of science, technology, and innovation in understanding pest biology, behavior, and ecology; designing pest management methods as well as taking into consideration pertinent socioeconomic and regulatory issues.

### **CONFERENCE THEME AND RATIONALE**

The International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection (IWCSPP) started in 1974, it is held every four years and is the most important and influential international conference on all aspects of stored product protection. It brings together researchers, scientists, consultants, pest management professionals, and administrators involved in pest management and quality maintenance of stored raw grains, processed food products, stored spices, animal products, artifacts, and museum specimens. The main objective of the IWCSPP is to create space for presentation of current results of scientific work in the field of stored product pest biology, management, and socioeconomics. The conference is also a space for creating collaborative links between academics and professional practitioners and their workplaces, aiming at long-term sharing of knowledge and discussions of highly current issues on stored product pests.

This conference is the second to be hosted in Africa and presents an important platform for sharing advances in science, technology, innovations, and experiences that are required for protecting stored products from insect infestation and deterioration from molds and bacteria. It will particularly raise awareness about stored product pest science; the role of pests in reducing the quantity and quality of stored products, and highlight the need for African countries to invest in capacity building for stored product pest management, and developing policies, strategies, technologies and practices, investment, financing, and business cases for stored product pest management, in the face of emerging challenges such as climate change, pandemics, war, global economic recession, and conflict, among others. The theme for the 13<sup>th</sup> IWCSPP is **“Advancing research, technology, and innovations in stored product protection for sustainable trade, food, and nutrition security”**. This theme recognizes the critical role of understanding pests in storage pest management; developing a variety of methods for pest management and enabling farmers to apply them under different socioeconomic and regulatory/political scenarios, involving a variety of stakeholders, including extension agents, private sector, and civil society. The methods for managing stored product pests may require routine monitoring for continued efficacy, and devising means to manage any situations compromising on the method’s efficacy, for example, chemical methods and development of resistance to chemicals by pests. Properly timed pest management may require several monitoring programs, including early detection. Choosing the best method, and the best time and way of using that method, is complex, for which conducting a cost-benefit analysis and understanding of economics would be the best guide. Whichever method is chosen should not compromise food quality, pesticide residues, worker safety, trade, and health by following national and international regulations. The scientific program themes (main topics) of the conference are<sup>1</sup>:

1. Biology, ecology and behavior of stored products pests, and their natural enemies, with application to improving pest management.
2. Engineering and technologies for stored product protection, pest prevention and quality preservation
3. Behavioral manipulation of insect pests for monitoring and management (includes

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<sup>1</sup> All participants at the 13<sup>th</sup> IWCSPP are encouraged to think about and reflect on the gender, policy and governance issues related to their work, and about other social, economic and environmental outcomes of their work as opposed to just the technical outcomes and find ways of incorporating these into their presentations

- kairomones/pheromones for trapping, mating disruption, lure-and-kill, push-pull, repellents)
4. Chemicals for stored product insect pest suppression (includes fumigants, aerosols, and sprays, botanicals, and resistance issues)
  5. Physical control methods for pest management and quality preservation (includes controlled atmospheres, hermetic storage, heat and cold treatments, insect resistant packaging)
  6. Quarantine and regulatory aspects of stored product pests and protection
  7. Mitigating fungi and mycotoxins for food and feed safety
  8. Postharvest management extension, education and demonstration
  9. Scaling of practical postharvest management interventions in low and lower-middle income countries.

The conference theme and scientific program themes of the 13<sup>th</sup> IWCSPP are generally informed by the global emerging science, technology, tools, and innovations on the stored product protection agenda. The conference theme and scientific program themes of the 13<sup>th</sup> IWCSPP align perfectly with the National Vision 2040: “A Transformed Ugandan Society from a Peasant to a Modern and Prosperous Country within 30 years.” Additionally, hosting the IWCSPP brings numerous benefits to the country, including:

- a) Enhanced knowledge exchange and technology transfer: the conference will facilitate the transfer of cutting-edge knowledge and technologies in postharvest management to Ugandan researchers, farmers, and businesses.
- b) Increased international visibility: the conference is estimated to attract 600–700 delegates (participants). Attracting international experts and researchers to Uganda will significantly enhance the country's profile as a leading destination for agricultural research and innovation. This will not only boost academic and scientific collaborations but also contribute to the growth of Uganda's tourism sector, particularly in the Agro-tourism space.
- c) Economic growth and development: the conference will create opportunities for Ugandan businesses to engage with international markets, showcase their products and services, and contribute to economic growth.
- d) Capacity building: the IWCSPP will provide valuable training and capacity-building opportunities for Ugandan professionals in the field of postharvest management.

## **CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY**

The five-day conference is scheduled for **19 – 23 October 2026** at Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort and Conference Kampala, Uganda. The five-day programme will include plenary and breakaway sessions for the various thematic areas. The interactive sessions will feature renowned subject matter experts providing lead/keynote presentations in the plenary sessions and panel discussions. The breakaway sessions will be dedicated to sharing and discussing research findings from researchers and students. Digital and physical posters will be displayed throughout the five days of the conference. In addition, there will be a dedicated interactive plenary session where poster presenters will pitch their research and development ideas/findings. Exhibitions of innovative technologies, practices, and tools for stored product

pests research and development will be on display (physical and virtual) throughout the five days.

### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

The organization of the conference will be spearheaded by Makerere University and National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) in partnership with diverse regional and global partners, including research and academic institutions, development partners, non-governmental organizations, and private sector actors, among others. The Conference organization will be achieved through three sub-committees described below:

- **Resource Mobilization Sub-committee:** this committee is tasked with the mobilization of resources required for conference execution. The resources include finances, technical support, in-kind support and any other support that will contribute to the success of the conference
- **Technical Sub-Committee:** this committee will drive the technical/scientific agenda of the Conference. Membership to this committee includes technical experts from academia, research and policy/governance.
- **Publicity, Communication and Logistics Sub-committee:** this sub-committee will be tasked with overall coordination of the Conference secretariat and related logistics, including hospitality, catering, security, transportation, protocol, registration, bags, stationery, gifts, accreditation, exhibition, side events, etc.

### **CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS**

It is expected that about 600–700 participants will attend the Conference. The expected participants include a diversity of stakeholders across Africa and beyond who work (directly or indirectly) with stored product pests and the protection of stored products. These will comprise scientists, researchers, policymakers, industry professionals, students, innovators, policymakers, development partners, government departments, private sector/investors, civil society, media, farmers, extension agents, traders, etc. who are all striving to address critical challenges in stored product protection.

### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

1. Awareness will be created about the International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection (IWCSPP), its goals and objectives, and opportunities it presents to Africa
2. Facilitating farmer – scientist knowledge flows: strengthening agricultural extension and human capacity building
3. Enhance the establishment of linkages, partnerships, and collaboration among the various stakeholders, including connection with international partners to harness science, technology, and innovation in protecting stored products
4. Encourage the development of science, technology, and innovation applications in protecting stored products in key foods at regional (Africa) and different national levels
5. Conference Book of Abstracts
6. Compilation of papers presented during the Conference online (Conference Proceedings), and publication of selected papers in a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal.

**For more information, visit <https://13iwcspp.com> or contact:**

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