

AFRICAN NUTRITION MATTERS

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SPECIAL ISSUE

AFRICAN NUTRITION SOCIETY
THE NEWSLETTER



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Kigali, Rwanda
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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Welcome to this special issue of African Nutrition Matters

The African Nutrition Epidemiology Conference (ANEC) is the African Nutrition Society flagship event. The biennial conference rotates its location among the African nations, allowing individual nutrition societies the opportunity to host one of the most important events on the nutrition calendar for Africa. This year, the ANEC VIII is held in Addis Abba Ethiopia from the 1-4th October 2018. The theme for this year's conference is "Multi-stakeholder nutrition actions in Africa: translating evidence into policies and programmes for impact."

Our lead article is a letter to ANS members and those attending ANEC VIII from the ANS president Dr Amos Laar. In this letter, Dr Laar reminds us of the founding principles of the ANS and ANEC, and situates this conference within the current nutrition agenda for Africa. Most importantly Dr Laar highlights the strides made towards the 10-point strategic plan for ANS and encourages us all to take ownership and interact with this plan and the society as a whole. We hear from two partner organisations of the ANS, African Nutrition Leadership Program (ANLP) and eNutrition Academy. The African Nutrition Leadership Program boasts many alumni,

including most of the members of the ANM editorial team. In their article ANM discusses the 10-day leadership development program, held annually since 2002. In addition ANLP highlights the growth of its brand with other capacity building and leadership initiatives.

The eNutrition Academy is an initiative that seeks to increase access to vital skills for nutritionists on the continent. In their article, the eNutrition Academy team describes the steps that have been taken since its inception to meet the goal of capacity building.

Our student contribution comes from Clara Nambunga, A BSc Human Nutrition student from the University of Zambia. In the article, Clara reflects on the Nutrition emergency in south Sudan. In our letter from the field, Modesta, Abugu discuss the impact of Boko Haram insurgency on Food and Nutrition Security in Nigeria. This year has seen the demise of two colleagues Dr Sandra Mutuma and Mr Fred Wentworth-Bower. We remember them in obituaries.

Finally the African Nutrition Matters is seeking new members for all positions, from editors, sub-editors and digital marketers for this publication. We encourage all those interested to send us an email and short resume.

We wish you a wonderful conference.



Dr Nonsi Mathe
On behalf of the ANM team.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



African Nutrition Society

Fellow members of the African Nutrition Society (ANS), Delegates of the 8th Africa Nutrition Conference (ANEC 8) and , Friends: greetings from the sunny and humid city of Accra, Ghana – where the ANS is headquartered. Established in 2008, the ANS, most of you recognize, is a leading continental professional society of scientists working in the fields of nutrition, food science, agriculture, health, and related disciplines. The society has the goal to promote harmonization of nutrition workforce training; and to strengthen human capacity needed for nutrition policy, programming, and implementation.

Over the years, members of the ANS have played, and continue to play significant roles in national nutrition coalitions, e.g. their involvement in the formation of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and the creation of national SUN Academic Platforms is worth noting.

The ANS continues to work with UN organizations, regional organizations including non-state actors, and industry stakeholders to promote capacity strengthening in nutrition, and to confront malnutrition in all its forms in Africa. A unique attribute of the ANS' ANEC is its mentoring initiatives. Mentoring, which is a constant feature of ANEC, is ingrained in the DNA of ANS.

As an academic, and a mentor, it was therefore a great honor to be elected the Society's fourth President in 2016 – following in the very huge footsteps of Professor Anna Lartey (2008 – 2010), Professor Wilna Oledwage-Theron (2010 – 2012), and Professor Francis B. Zotor (2012 –2016). I thank the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly of the ANS for allowing me to serve as President of a Society that concerns itself with matters that matter to us all.

As far as our biennial gathering is considered, I consider it an honor and

privilege to welcome the distinguished subject experts, distinguished conference delegates, industry stakeholders, ANEC8 partners including students to Africa, to Addis Ababa, and to the African Union Commission (AUC) where ANEC8 takes place. This year's ANEC is particularly special in many respects. It's taking place in Addis Ababa an African city known for its pan-Africanism. It is also special because, ANEC8 is taking place at the AUC, the headquarters of the executive/administrative branch or secretariat of the African Union. Can you think of a better location for a conference of a pan-African Society in ANS?

ANEC, has, is, and will continue to be the continent's biggest gathering of nutritionists in Africa. Our conferences have been known for delivering world-class speakers.



This year's meeting will be no different. Rich with inspiration and insights from the best and brightest, you will find details in our scientific programme on the conference website, or in the conference packet.

Appropriately themed "Multi-stakeholder nutrition actions in Africa: translating evidence into policies, and programmes for impact", our conference will address some of today's public health's most critical issues, including: scaling up nutrition, nutrition governance, food systems, food safety and value chain, biofortification, food security, food industries, nutrition transition, and nutrition-related NCDs among others. All of these are in line with the Society's strategic direction.

Since 2016, we have made great strides in the implementation of our 10-point strategic plan. In 2016, the Society agreed to among others:

Strengthen our partnerships with other learned Societies and Federations across all regions of the world;

2. Cement our partnerships with international organizations, including UN agencies, and other organizations desirous of building intellectual capacity and promotion of the field of nutrition in Africa;

3. Ethically engage with industry/private sector as we work towards realizing local, regional and global nutrition goals;

4. Incentivize membership recruitment in all regions of African and the Diaspora;

5. Sustain the actions of current Nutrition Capacity Development initiatives in African;

6. Stimulate the engagement of members and public through innovative and optimal use of ANS' e-platforms and tools;

7. Appreciate our predecessors and current mentors by recognizing and showcasing significant contributions made by them;

8. Initiate inter-ANEC Lectures at the country level for country level engagement in between our Biennial Conferences;

9. Vigorously pursue the establishment of the Journal of the African Nutrition Society to provide an opportunity to members to publicize their research findings as well as the proceedings of our scientific meetings and conferences;

10. Motivate and support meaningful collaboration with the African nutrition research community.

We , have, and continue to implement these. I will mention a few. Some of you might have either participated in, or heard of an international Codex Workshop organized by the African Nutrition Society, in collaboration with Sight & Life, focusing on the role science in shaping food standards at the Codex Alimentarius Commission - getting Africa's voice heard. This workshop, an inter-ANEC activity brought together government representatives, policy-makers active in Codex decision-making



in the African region, scientists from targeted African countries, industry stakeholders, and students.

ANS has been present at important local, regional, and global gatherings: e.g. at the International Congress of Nutrition in Buenos Aires in October, 2017, at the SUN Global Gathering meeting in Abidjan in November, 2017, at UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis November 2017, at the third ANH Academy Week in Accra, etc.

Noteworthy, we [ANS] are currently support the implementation of the African Development Bank's African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) initiative. ANS' leadership including members of the Board of Trustees have joined the ALN's Technical Advisory Group. In line with its capacity-building mandate, the ANS has since 2017 worked with the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) Academy to support research capacity strengthening initiatives for emerging African scientists. We will continue to work with partners towards confronting malnutrition in all its forms in Africa.

because it's the right thing to do.

As a reminder, ANS exists to bring together all stakeholders involved in the business of elevating the field of nutrition – including but not limited to researchers, practitioners, donors, policy makers and students. We know that it is only by working collaboratively that we will be successful in our mission and realizing our visions.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge the innumerable individuals who have contributed in diverse ways towards ANEC8 (I have not named you, but you know yourselves). My sincere thanks to you for your sincere and continued support of ANS and our shared goals. The advances we have made since 2016 would not have been possible without you. Finally, there is no ANEC without ANEC delegates. We thank you all for your devotion, dedication, and enthusiasm toward ANEC.

You make ANEC hold the record, as the biggest family in Africa. We hope that your time at the conference will be stimulating and rewarding.

If you are reading the African Nutrition Matters for the first time, or attending ANEC for the first time, and not yet a member of the ANS, please consider JOINING and help us advance the laudable missions of ANEC, and the ANS. Once again, please receive my wishes for a delightful, stimulating, and a productive ANEC8.

ENJOY ANEC8! ENJOY AUC! ENJOY ADDIS ABABA! ENJOY AFRICA.

Yours,



Amos Laar, Ph.D
President, African Nutrition Society



THE AFRICAN NUTRITION

Leadership Programme

The African Nutrition Leadership Programme designs and implements leadership development initiatives at both an individual and at organizational level in the broader field of nutrition.

The flagship programme is the 10-day leadership development course that has been hosted annually since 2002 and is targeted towards individual growth and leader development. Thirty selected mid-career individuals participate in an intensive 10-day programme designed to identify and leader development.

"This opportunity to attend the ANLP was a once in a lifetime experience in my 10 years of work and my whole life where I got to really know who I am, have fun, network, share experiences etc."

Thirty selected mid-career individuals participate in an intensive 10-day programme designed to identify and strengthen individual leadership capabilities. Receiving feedback from, and giving feedback to peers and reflecting on one's own growth process and integrating this into a personal development plan that goes beyond the 10-day programme are key features of

the programme. Each programme strives to include as many different African countries as possible. Participants work in a variety of areas for governments, universities, UN bodies and companies and it is this richness in variety that provides experiences and insights that are unique to this programme.

Many participants recognized the value and impact of their personal development

"This has been the most amazing experience I have ever had"

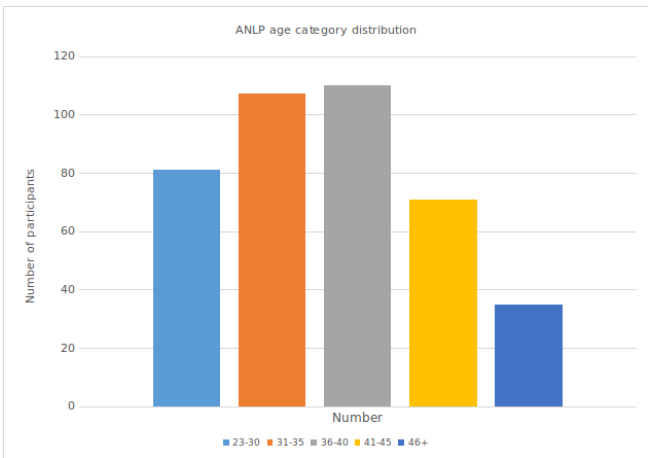
in the context of their own organisations and various working environments. In 2010 the ANLP started hosting context specific leadership and organizational development programmes. These programmes are developed only on request and according to the specific need of an organization. These programmes could include changing internal systems, enhancing technical capacity, improving team dynamics, developing result oriented change initiatives in organisations or groups. We strongly believe that organisations revolve around people and that we have neglected the potential impact that investments in the development of functional capacities in people have for nutritional outcomes. The ANLP has designed and implemented programmes for the Kenyan Food Fortification Alliance to assist with the implementation of mandatory food fortification in Kenya.



Since 2013 the ANLP has also been working with the Zambian Food and Nutrition Commission on organization development and the development of leadership capabilities in staff members of the Commission.

In 2015 the ANLP hosted a series of workshops at district level in Rwanda and in Uganda. The purpose of these programmes were to strengthen district teams' ability to implement their district plans. Participants reported that they felt better equipped to lead change and that they would be able to implement programmes more effectively. Participants gained new insights into their own behaviour and its impact on the effectiveness of their district teams. District teams each developed a purpose statement, defined their own operational values, and identified critical success factors for successfully scaling up nutrition in their districts. They formulated action plans to improve their teams' functionality and build awareness and understanding of the severe limitations of the existing activity-based programme implementation strategies they were using.

The ANLP has partnered with the International Policy Research Institute to host a leadership development course in Accra in November 2018 and in Dakar in 2019. In addition, we are currently designing additional programmes that are relevant for both national and sub-national teams who focus on the multi-sectoral implementation of nutrition programmes with two other organisations.



The ANLP has hosted 404 participants between 2002 and 2018. The average age of a participant is 36 years. To date participants from 35 African countries have attended. Sixty-Five percent of all ANLP participants have been woman.



Obituaries



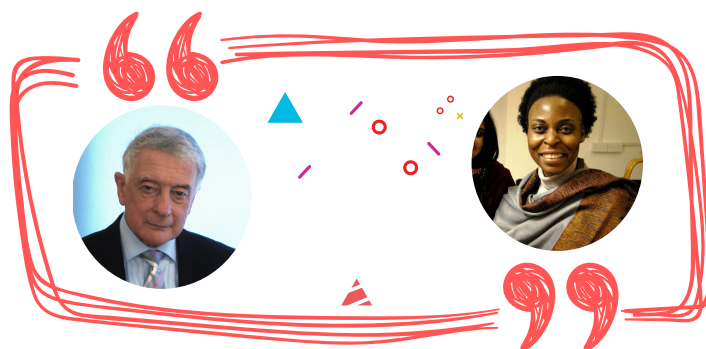
Another exciting development in recent times is the development of the ANLP's own newsletter – The Leader. The Leader aims to provide continued leadership development material and serve as an inspiration to continue the life-long journey of personal growth. The Leader is published once a trimester under the leadership of Christine Taljaard-Krugell and contributions are encouraged from ANLP alumni across the continent as well as experts on specific leadership topics. Topics that are addressed in The Leader include leadership (e.g. leading from where I stand, servant leadership), team-effectiveness, communication, advocacy and feedback.

For more information on the African Nutrition Leadership Programme please visit our website www.africannutritionleadership.org or contact Ronel Benson with any specific enquiries at ronel.benson@nwu.ac.za.

The African Nutrition Society is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of two of its giant members this year.

1. Mr Fred Wentworth-Bower was former Chief Executive of the Nutrition Society of UK and Ireland. Fred served the Nutrition Society for 10 years with great distinction between 2004 and 2014. During his tenure, he instrumentally led the approach to support capacity development on the African continent to aid the development of the next generation of nutritional scientists, and ultimately to support the global future leaders to drive science on the continent and around the world. This big and bold goal, deserved a big bold plan! From this, the eNutrition Academy was born.

2. Dr Sandra Mutuma, who until her passing was a Senior Nutrition Advisor at Action Against Hunger ACF-UK. Sandra's roles included advising Action Against Hunger and the ACF International Network on global policy trends and providing technical nutrition input into policy documents, and communications along with supporting HR during technical staff recruitment and selection. In addition, Sandra facilitated networking in the Health and Nutrition fora to raise the profile of undernutrition, particularly severe acute undernutrition as part of ACF's evidence-based advocacy strategy.





I trusted her as always. On December 10 2017, the last I heard from her, she was in London and had her plans to go to Washington around March and she told me to keep in touch.

I was so looking forward to meet her this April while visiting London but didn't get any reply to my messages and - neither did she respond to my birthday wishes this year. Since 2010, this was the 1st year she didn't respond to the messages.

She is the one who inspired me to be a humanitarian worker, describing it as rewarding but not easy work. Several experiences in the field have had a huge impact on me and sharing those with Sandra has always motivated me to continue working in these difficult contexts. She believed in me when I had little experience or opportunities. She was so proud of me on my humanitarian journey starting as an intern with her to the deputy country director in five years time. In the last seven years she was always there to support me in all possible ways. She was the true mentor.

I was heart broken when I heard that Sandra had passed on. She inspired me to see the world and learn different culture. I have many pleasant memories, that Bollywood farewell, the first policy brief at Westminster parliament, the work on aid for nutrition and products and many more.

-Sandra is always in our thoughts-

STUDENT CONTRIBUTION

The Nutrition Emergency situation in South Sudan

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South Sudan is the newest country in Africa, having gained independence in 2011. It is located in the central part of Africa; it is bordered by Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, Kenya to the southeast, Uganda to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the southwest and the Central African Republic to the west. The country of South Sudan is made up of a heterogeneous population of about 50 ethnic groups speaking about 117 different languages, with an economy that is predominantly a rural subsistence (Thyne, 2007).

Civil unrest started in 2013 fighting starting in Juba, South Sudan's capital city, between Dinka and Nuer soldiers of the presidential Guard. This was as a result of a power struggle between president Salva Kiir and his previous vice president, Dr Riek Machar (Bereketeab, 2015). In 2015, after the United Nations threatened to punish both men, Salva Kiir Mayardit signed a fragile peace agreement, but it did not end the conflict completely (Blanchard, 2016).

In 2016, fighting led to violence and the death of hundreds of individuals. In 2017, famine was declared in some parts of the country due to the violence, which turned into a civil war between different ethnic groups.



Today, South Sudan remains entrenched in this brutal conflict, as fighting from both sides continues. The underlying causes of the conflict in South Sudan, as with many conflicts includes discrimination based on ethnicity or religion, and, the unbalanced distribution of wealth (Thyne, 2007; Dessalegn, 2017).

The conflict in South Sudan has had a devastating impact on the rest of the population, especially children (UNICEF, 2015). This led the country to declare famine in 2017, with high levels of severe under nutrition among children under the age of five. About 7 million of the population need humanitarian assistance in South Sudan, including 1.9 million internal displaced people (IDPs) of which 85% are children and women (WHO 2018). In 2017 about 149,655 children 6-59months were screened, with a total 6,068 were found with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) while 18,892 had moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (UNICEF, 2017) The most vulnerable groups in south Sudan include: children, the elderly and those with disabilities for they suffer from violence, lack of access to services and sustained displacement (WHO, 2018). Another group that is particularly vulnerable is people with health problems such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis patients (Luka & Burgess 2017).

Undernourished pregnant women in South Sudan are at increased risk of anemia, miscarriages, and even death during delivery. Only 22% of health facilities are fully operational in South Sudan. Famine was declared in parts of South Sudan in 2017 by the Government together with the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Luka and Burgess (2017) reported that famine has affected more than 4.9million people,who are currently in urgent need of food and nutrition humanitarian assistance. The famine is spreading rapidly due to widespread conflict and drought conditions in the country, leading to food shortages

severe undernutrition, infections, and, death (UNICEF & WFP 2016). World Vision in partnership with other humanitarian actors such as the UN agencies, including WFP, UNICEF, UNOCHA, and other aid agencies formed a multi-sector Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), to meet the critical needs of displaced individuals (Laker, 2015). The WHO famine response plan in South Sudan has focused on working with partners to prevent the spread of diseases (CRP, 2014). United Nations has looked into the logistics of providing a peacekeeping force (WFP, 2016). There is hope that with all these efforts and strategies put in place, South Sudan will become more peaceful and prosperous as time progresses.

To save more lives, South Sudan would ideally require more humanitarian assistance from the various cluster leads to provide all the necessary support (Blanchard, 2016). The main humanitarian needs in South Sudan include urgent food relief; emergency shelter and essential items provision; medical/health care services; access to safe drinking water; food subsidies to assist low-income household and alleviate the burden of high food prices; and protection of civilians from violence (Mayai et al, 2018). There is an urgent- need for intervention to end the current violence in South Sudan. For more information on the nutrition emergency in South Sudan, or to make donation, you can contact any of the following organizations that are currently providing humanitarian assistance in the country

Mercy Corps:	+ 888 747 7440 www.mercycorps.org
USAID:	+202 712 0625 Email: rmontpelier@usaid.gov
WFP:	+211 (0)912465 581 Email: wfp.southsudan@wfp.org
World Vision:	+ 1 888 511 6548; Email: heainfo@wvi.org
UNICEF	+249 183 185 Email: khartoun@unicef.org



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THE DEVASTATING EFFECT OF BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA.

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, is currently battling with security issues due to attacks by Boko Haram insurgents. Boko Haram (BH), meaning Western education is forbidden, an Islamist militant insurgent group based in northeastern Nigeria, has been carrying out armed attacks on civilian populations in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States; with other attacks in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria.

This resulted in 1.68 million people becoming internally displaced in the three states¹. Nigeria is yet to recover from the effects of this insurgency, which saw the country become one of the most food insecure in Africa²; as the rate of undernutrition and hunger continues to increase.

Food security in Nigeria is best understood in terms of agricultural productivity, as agriculture maintains an intricate dominance in the country's economy. Local food production and animal husbandry account for much of the daily food and nutrition needs of Nigerians and is the major source of employment for the rural poor³.

Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States are well known as the major producers of cowpea, wheat and corn respectively. They are also known for other food and vegetable crops such as sorghum, millet, soybean, rice, mangoes, citrus fruits, gum-Arabic, onions, carrots, groundnuts, and berries.¹ With 80% of the population in Northeast Nigeria

being farmers, they contribute majorly to the production of most staple crops in the country¹. However, since the onset of insurgency in 2011, farming has not been the same. Many rural farmers have been displaced, while others were restricted from going to their farms because of the militaristic counterterrorism approach of the government. Residents fled for their lives, abandoned their farms and were left to depend on food aid to survive; with women and children being the most vulnerable.

In 2015, Borno State had 939,290 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), while Yobe and Adamawa had 139,591 and 222,882 IDPs respectively². The numbers continue to rise as most farmers are still displaced. In 2017, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) reported that 11 million people in northeast Nigeria go to bed having consumed an insufficient diet. This means an increase from the 8.1 million people reported in the previous years; with more than 120,000 potentially suffering from famine-like conditions.

Undernutrition is a complex condition, which has been exacerbated in many ways due to this insurgency. It was established that approximately 350,000 Nigerian children are already dying from undernutrition every year. However, the Boko Haram crisis resulted in an additional 3.4 million people needing nutrition



assistance, according to a 2014 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) report.

According to the Nigeria Humanitarian Situation Report⁶, across these three conflict-affected states, an estimated 940,000 children aged 6 to 59 months are acutely undernourished, 440,000 are severely undernourished and 500,000 are moderately undernourished. Some experts say it may take Nigeria up to 20 years to recover from the damage caused by the Boko Haram insurgency; but with effective policies and strategies adequately implemented, it is possible for the country to rise beyond and combat the prevalence of food and nutrition insecurity.

The attainment of the second goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which is targeting zero hunger by 2030, can only be achieved if the right structural framework is laid. The Nigerian government must harness its resources properly by driving critical improvements in areas of irrigation systems, better agricultural institutions and agricultural extension services, as well curtailing the Boko Haram insurgency in the north.

Currently, UNICEF and other development agencies are working tirelessly to reduce the incidence of undernutrition in these states, but more effort is needed to enhance access to quality and nutritious food in these states; as well as to revive their agricultural potential¹. Agencies are also providing preventive and curative nutrition services, promoting optimal maternal, infant, and young child feeding practices, and integrating health, nutrition and water and sanitation interventions to address the multi-factorial causes of undernutrition.

The FAO is supporting affected farmers by providing a wide range of farm inputs, including fertilisers, improved seeds, herbicides, pesticides and agricultural implements and machinery².

Similarly, Leaders of these badly affected states are facilitating access to victims' support funds and agricultural input to increase competitiveness of the agricultural sector through collaborating with donor agencies, foreign and local investors¹. This strategy supports infrastructure development, social development of rural territories, irrigation and land reclamation.

For the country to make significant progress towards attaining food and nutrition security there is the need for more collaboration among government at all levels, private sector operators and other well-meaning individuals to double their efforts towards bringing the unrest in some parts of the country to an end. There is also a need to adopt technologies that can contribute to higher productivity and increase the access to quality food as the Nigerian population continues to increase.

MODESTA NNEDINSO ABUGU

Programme Assistant, Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa, Nigeria Chapter

Fellow, Cornell Alliance for Science, Cornell University, Ithaca New York.



Contributing to Nutrition Capacity Building in Africa

The eNutrition Academy



The eNutrition Academy began, as many things do, with a conversation. The Nutrition Society (UK and Ireland) had worked with the African Nutrition Society (ANS) for many years through a number of initiatives such as travel bursaries and supporting the Africa Nutritional Epidemiology Conference (ANEC) and enabling publication of ANEC abstracts in the Proceedings of the Nutrition Society (impact factor 5.347, 2017).

In 2011 we sat down, as we had done many times before, to discuss the deepening of our partnership and how we could work together to fulfil the aims of both our organisations. I, and the former CEO of the Nutrition Society, Mr Fred Wentworth-Bowyer (deceased) were struck by the resolve and determination of Drs Paul Amuna and Francis Zotor, to have an African led approach to support capacity development on the continent, to aid the development of the next generation of nutritional scientists, and ultimately to support the global future leaders who will drive science on the continent and around the world. A big bold goal deserving a big bold plan! Saw the birth of the eNutrition Academy.

The eNutrition Academy (eNA) is an independent charitable organisation which is dedicated to providing open access capacity building courses in nutritional science worldwide.

By utilising global academic expertise in combination with technology to create courses that are not only subject specific but considers geographical variations of e-learning needs, enables capacity building, networking and information flow for the learner. From those early days and in 2012, NS and ANS brought additional partners onboard, namely the Federation of African Nutrition Societies (FANUS), the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) and the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS). The Board of the eNA is made up of leading academics across the world and are appointed by the partner organisations. In 2014, the eNutrition Academy was incorporated as a charity and launched the concept for online learning to the ANEC VI delegates, in Accra in Ghana. At that time, the partners sought the insight from attendees to establish their requirements. The eNA Trustee board established an Academic Board, a Fundraising Committee and set about creating a pilot course to test not only the online platform but communication across the continent. After many lessons learned, including a last-minute change in platform providers, restructuring of committees, the eNA launched its pilot course Assessment of Dietary Intake for Individuals written by Professor Basma Ellahi of the University of Chester, UK in collaboration with Dr Reginald Annan of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. This course was formally launched at ANEC VII, in Morocco in 2016. To date over 200 learners have logged on and taken part in the online learning.



The eNA and its partners recognises the inequality in nutrition learning opportunities across the world. The eNA aims to provide high level blended critical (academic) thinking with a creative e-learning design to appeal to the target audience. The flexible course design means that not all Learners need to study all parts, but all parts can be used to create a flexible course to suit Learners' needs and expertise which allows for a unique user experience. The content of the e-courses includes the direct presentation of information through PowerPoint and video material. Further exploration of material takes place through links to scientific journal articles and textbook content produced and published by its partners. Additional material has been developed by the eNA and is available to the Learner. Assessment can take place through peer-to-peer assessment and machine graded multiple-choice assessments.

All courses are online, open access and free to the end-user. As the Learner selects courses depending on their own need, this flexibility will suit various learning styles. The eNA allows for repeated access of learning materials. The retention of material allows the Learner to absorb information in their own time. Through access to research material, it provides additional curated information that will accelerate learning and the preparation for assessments. The nature of online learning that eNA provides means the learner can access their course from home, work, university, community or in library settings. In addition, the use of online forums and discussions groups enables Learners to access intra and inter-continental collaboration across various time-zones, preparing the Learner for real-life work settings. When launching any new product, it is important to listen to feedback from end users, make any modification necessary and ensure that it is fit for purpose. Over a quarter of users completed the online survey commenting on all aspects of the pilot course, from the usability of the host platform, to how we can improve presentation style and methods. The eNA was delighted to present its findings at IUNS-ICN in October 2017. Dr Grace Marquis (McGill University, Canada) and member of the eNA Board presented the outcomes of Needs and Demand Survey which looked at future courses and development

of online learning in Africa. More information can be found on www.enutritionacademy.org. This survey remains open and we would love to hear your thoughts.

The eNA is attending ANEC VIII in Ethiopia not only to touch base with its audience and supporters but issue a call to action for content developers to join the academic board, to create new courses to complement those online and under development. For translators to enable our courses to be accessible to all and enable them to be truly trans-continental. For Learners to test and critique our work and build our community, and funders to support our community, its work and ensure that it is fit for purpose now and into the future.

The eNAs goal to support the education of the next leaders in nutritional science has faced many obstacles since its initial call for support from ANEC delegates in Ghana in 2014. We remain determined to strive towards our big bold plan and hope you will join us on the journey.

The eNA is pleased and delighted to receive so much positive support for its programme. Future courses include:

- Community Based Interventions
- Socio-Cultural Factors & Nutrition
- Obesity & Nutrition Interventions
- Fatty Acids & Nutritional Health
- An Introduction to Stable Isotopes Techniques in Nutritional Assessment
- Controlled trials and interventions in Nutrition Research

Jennifer Norton

Director of Secretariat Services
(Nutrition Society, UK & Ireland)
Acting CEO, The eNutrition Academy



Announcement

Nutrition in action for sustainable development in Africa Kigali, Rwanda August 12-15, 2019

RWANDA NUTRITIONISTS' SOCIETY (RNS)

Scope of the Congress:

The conference provides a forum for nutrition and health scientists, policy makers, entrepreneurs, development partners, and other stakeholders in the nutrition, health, agriculture and food sectors to present their latest research findings. Also, the conference will act as an avenue to dialogue how to enhance better nutrition and health among Africans to serve as the foundation for sustainable human, social, and economic development

Abstracts for paper presentations or posters:

Abstracts submission is not yet open. The call of abstracts will be sent before end of 2018. However, all abstracts relevant to the Congress theme or sub-themes should be written in English and not exceed 300 words. Authors should indicate which symposia their abstract pertains to. The presenting author should be underlined and contact information noted. Each abstract should contain a short introduction; purpose of the study/program; methods/approach used; summary of results; and major conclusions/recommendations. ...

Congress theme and symposia:

In addition to plenary presentations, this four day conference will have parallel symposia focused on 11 sub-themes:
Malnutrition; forms, trends, causalities, innovations and cost.
Commitments, policies and strategies to eliminate malnutrition
Multi-sectoral coordination of nutrition initiatives
Sustainable financing of Nutrition
Human Capital Development and Education
Nutrition and NCDs
Advocacy, communication and mobilization
Data generation and Knowledge systems
Nutrition policies, politics, and nutrition governance in Africa
Nutrition and health implication of the current food system in Africa
Exploring the Potential of African foods in Nutrition and disease.

Registration and venue: Details regarding registration will be shared in due course. However, the registration fee will cover a registration package, conference proceedings, daily tea breaks, lunches and admission to all congress events. The venue of the congress will be the Kigali Conference Center, an ultra modern conference center, in Kigali, Rwanda. Information about this Center and other moderate accommodations in Kigali will be sent to registered participants and posted on the FANUS website.

Enquiries to the Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee: Christine Mukantwali, PhD. President, Rwanda Nutrition Society. Senior Food and Nutrition Research Fellow. Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board. Tel: (+250)788445328/ (+250)732800358; Email: mukantwali@gmail.com

Periodic updates and other accommodation facilities will be posted on the website: www.fanus.org