CONCEPT NOTE: FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE ANNUAL RESEARCH WEEK AND AGRO-CONFERENCE 2026

Host Institution: Faculty of Agriculture, University of Nairobi,
Conference Dates: 21st – 23rd October 202
Venue: Faculty of Agriculture, Upper Kabete Campus, Nairobi, Kenya
Target Audience: Researchers, Academics, Students, Policy Makers, Development Partners, Private Sector Players, and Agribusiness Practitioners

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The global Agri-Food landscape is facing unprecedented challenges. Driven by erratic climate patterns, degrading land resources, shifting market dynamics, and a rapidly growing population, traditional agricultural practices are no longer sufficient to guarantee food and nutrition security. To achieve sustainable transformation, higher education and research institutions must step into leadership roles, translating scientific discovery into scalable, real-world field solutions. As a premier institution of agricultural learning in East Africa, the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Nairobi recognizes its pivotal responsibility. In alignment with the university's overarching vision of transforming society through research excellence and emerging technologies, this conference serves as a strategic forum. This conference hosted by the Faculty of Agriculture aims to chart an actionable path toward sustainable and resilient Agri-food systems by showcasing data-driven multi-disciplinary research across four core pillars:

1. Food safety and technology
2. Plant health and crop protection
3. Sustainable land management
4. Agricultural economics, market dynamics, policy, institutions and extension.

CONFERENCE THEME AND OBJECTIVES

MAIN THEME

"Sustainable Agri-Food Systems: Integrating Technology, Climate Resilience, and Economic Policy for Global Impact."

DETAILED SUBTHEMES

Subtheme 1: Sustainable School Feeding, Bridging Food Science, Agriculture, and Nutrition for Future Generations and all life cycles

This School Feeding Edition workshop will showcase the diverse approaches the government is taking to design, deliver and strengthen school meals, drawing on insights from the Food for Education case study among other partners offering school feeding programmes.

1. Designing Balanced Menus for Better Nutrition outcomes and Optimal Learning.
2. Cost-Effective Sourcing and Procurement for School Feeding Programmes
3. Cultivating Nutritious Crops for School and Home-Grown Gardens.
4. Food Safety and Quality: Ensuring Safe and Nutritious Meals in Schools.
5. Foods, Nutrition and Dietetics, Food Safety and Quality for All Life Cycle.

Subtheme 2: Empowering global agriculture by fusing climate-resilient plant sciences with AI-driven precision crop protection for sustainable food security

This track explores genetic and agronomic innovations designed to optimize crop yields while protecting natural ecosystems from pest and disease pressures.

1. Advanced biotechnology, gene-editing, and breeding techniques for climate-resilient crop varieties.
2. Next-generation crop protection: Utilizing AI, remote sensing, and precision drone technology for disease monitoring and pest control.
3. Sustainable agronomic practices, agro-ecology, and biological conservation methods for soil and plant health.
4. Seed science development, international phytosanitary compliance, and reducing barriers in crop trade.

Subtheme 3: Sustainable Soil, Land, Water, and Dryland Resource Management for Climate-Resilient Agri-Food Systems

1. Soil Health, Fertility, and Regenerative Agriculture.
2. Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation Neutrality, and Ecosystem Restoration.
3. Agricultural Water Management, and Smart Irrigation Technologies.
4. Climate-Smart Agriculture, Dryland Resource Management, and Pastoral Resilience.
5. Precision Agriculture, Digital Soil Mapping, GIS, Remote Sensing, and Land Use Planning.
6. Soil and Water Conservation, Wildlife management, Biodiversity Conservation, and Carbon Sequestration.
7. Natural Resource Governance, and Sustainable Livelihoods, Landscape Restoration.

Subtheme 4: Agri-Food Economics, Commercialization, Institutions, Extension and Policy Reforms

1. Agricultural knowledge management, Technology Transfer and Innovation for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems
2. Digital Agricultural Extension and Climate Smart Advisory Services for Resilient Agri-Food Systems
3. Smallholder Commercialization and Livelihood Diversification
4. Emerging Policy Issues and ICT in Agriculture
5. Building Resilience in Agri-enterprises
6. Emerging Role of Cooperatives and Farmer Organizations in Devolved Economies

Subtheme 5: Harnessing Cutting-Edge Innovation and Digital Technologies to Drive Climate-Resilient, Economically Viable, and Inclusive Agri-Food Systems.

1. The Intersection of Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, and Indigenous Knowledge.
2. Gender, Youth Inclusivity, and Green Financing in Agri-Food Systems.
3. The Nexus between Agriculture, Nutrition and Health

ABSTRACT PREPARATION AND FORMATTING RULES

The abstract should be written in English language in MS word or rich text format and have a maximum of 300 words in times new roman font size 12. The abstract must have the following details:

- Concise title (maximum 15 words)
- Names of authors, their affiliation and mailing address and the corresponding author contacts
- The body of the abstract should contain the objective(s), methodology, results, discussion and conclusions/recommendations
- Key words

All abstracts must be relevant to the conference theme and aligned to one or more of the five conference sub-themes

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- Published Proceedings: Publication of a peer-reviewed Conference Abstract Book and selected high-impact papers in high-ranking, open-access international journals.
- Policy Briefs: Compilation of actionable policy documents submitted directly to the Relevant agencies
- Technological Showcases: Established partnerships between student inventors, faculty researchers, and venture capitalists to commercialize displayed Agri-tech prototypes.
- Strategic Tripartite Alliances: Formalized Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) bridging Academia, Industry, and Government to fund joint long-term research initiatives.

TIMELINES

Milestone Activity	**Deadline Date**
Official Call for Papers and Abstracts Launched	30th July 2026
Deadline for Abstract Submission	15th August 2026
Deadline for Submission of Final Revised Abstracts	3rd October 2026
Live Conference Presentations & Breakout Sessions	21st – 23rd October 2026

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND SECRETARIAT CONTACTS

- Online Submissions Email: agro-conf@uonbi.ac.ke
- Direct Secretariat Email Submissions: agro-conf@uonbi.ac.ke
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