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# The 8<sup>th</sup> AFMA Congress

Peer Reviewed Papers

**Theme:**

**“Repositioning African Agriculture by  
Enhancing Productivity, Market Access,  
Policy Dialogue and Adapting to Climate  
Change”**

**MOI UNIVERSITY**  
**PRESS** 

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## Address By President, Africa Farm Management Association

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with utmost pleasure that I present this address on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> Africa Farm Management Association's Congress here in Nairobi, the green city in the sun and home to local and international businesses and organizations. The African Farm Management Association (AFMA) was formed in November 1992 in Harare, Zimbabwe as a non-political, non-sectarian voluntary organization. AFMA was established to further the knowledge and practice of farm business management on the African continent. It is in furtherance of this that congresses are held on rotational basis all over the countries in the continent on topical issues. In this vein, permit me to highlight the discussions at the last two AFMA congresses.

The 6<sup>th</sup> AFMA congress with the theme: *'Realities of Improving Farm Management and Commercialising the Subsistence Sector in African Agriculture'*, was held in Maputo, Mozambique in 2002. The major issues discussed included: alternative farming systems, theories and approaches to commercialising small scale farmers, agricultural commercialisation for food security improvement, impact of forest management regimes on agricultural productivity and shareholders' incomes, constraints to the commercialisation process of semi-subsistence agriculture, how the business or entrepreneurial spirit can be developed, government agricultural policy and its impact on commercialisation and finally, using the concept of comparative advantage in targeting agricultural production for local and global markets.

The 7<sup>th</sup> congress with the theme: *'Agri-business in the African Century'* was held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2004. It featured two lead papers titled; *'Food Security and Livelihood Improvement in Africa through Agri-business Development'* and *'Effective Economic Farm Management Guidelines'*. Forty-six papers were presented under six sub-themes namely: Institutions and Agricultural Organisations; Basic Skills Development; Appropriate Technologies; Financing Agri-business; Food Processing and Agri-industry and finally, Food Security and Livelihood Improvement.

Deliberations at the last two congresses were incisive and rewarding and I am very positive that the 8<sup>th</sup> congress here in Nairobi in the next four days with the theme: *'Repositioning African Agriculture through Productivity, Market Access, Policy Dialogue and Adapting to Climate Change'*,

will not be an exception. The seven sub-themes for this congress namely: Agricultural Productivity and Competiveness; Farm and Agribusiness Management; Food Security and Climate Change; Agricultural Credit, Trade and Marketing; Gender and Agricultural Development; Natural Resource and Conflict Management and finally, Innovation, Technology Development and Dissemination; you will agree with me have been well chosen. I therefore, urge you all to participate actively in the interest of our dear continent.

I sincerely thank all the members of the Local organising Committee particularly, Dr. Philip Nyangweso and Dr. Mark Korir for their braveness and hard work which has made our dream of holding the 8<sup>th</sup> AFMA congress in Nairobi, Kenya a reality after so many years.

I cannot end this address without informing you that the African Farm Management Association is affiliated to the International Farm Management Association (IFMA). IFMA organises biennial congresses hosted by countries in the various continents of the World in rotation. The last IFMA congress was held in New Zealand in March, 2011, while preparations are on for Poland to host the 2013 IFMA congress and it is open to all AFMA members. All National Farm Management Associations (NFMA) which are affiliate members of IFMA are automatically members of AFMA. AFMA membership is open to all farmers' associations and related organisations in Africa. I urge you all who have not registered as members of your AFMA to do so without further delay in view of the benefit there from.

Thank you for your attention.

**MRS. GRACE O. EVBUOMWAN**

**THE PRESIDENT, AFRICA FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**