

**Message from International Network on Appropriate Technology (INAT) president
26 May 2022**

“According to the [United Nations Environment Food Waste Index 2021](https://businesschief.eu/sustainability/food-waste-at-record-highs-is-technology-the-answer), an estimated 17% of total global food production is wasted (61% from households, 26% from food service and 13% from retail), while 14% is lost from farm to retail stage. Add to this the agricultural stage, taking into account food loss during farming, and as much as 40% of all food is lost. (source - <https://businesschief.eu/sustainability/food-waste-at-record-highs-is-technology-the-answer>). The United Nation’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs reported that in 2020, “over 2.37 billion people are without food or unable to eat a healthy balanced diet on a regular basis.” (source - <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal2>). This contradiction between food wastage and lack of access to food must be addressed.

The solution lies with using the appropriate technologies and practices to empower local communities to be achieve food security. This means both rural and urban communities must become self-sufficient regarding food production. In many instances the lack of water resources is an impediment to food production. Rain water collection, drip irrigation, innovative water pumping systems are examples of appropriate technology promoted to meet the irrigation needs of farmers. Eliminating food wastage requires individual commitment to change and collective action on the part of the food retail and services industries. Both can originate from and engender community empowerment.

INAT has made several efforts to contribute to food security. At our 9th International Conference on Appropriate Technology (9th ICAT), we hosted a 2-day workshop on medium scale farming and innovative technology as well as a workshop on indigenous technology. Brian Stephenson, president of Passion of Hope international, has followed on this work with his Kilimo-Bunifu innovative Agriculture project. Prof. Mpofu and Dr. Ramatsetse have followed on with a small scale community-based farming project in South Africa. Recognising the significance of food security, INAT is encouraging others to initiate projects that will address the elimination of food wastage, reduction of food shortages and empowerment of communities to be food self-sufficient.

INAT will host the 10th ICAT in Khartoum Sudan the 22-25 November 2022. It will also allow virtual online participation. The theme is ‘Enhancing Peace and Governance through Appropriate Technology: Reimagining Sustainable Community Wellbeing in an Era of Global Climate Change’. Global climate change is a reality that has negatively impacted farming and food security. On a global level, we must address governance and technology policy that will support local farming, agri-business and local and global food security. This is central to achieving community wellbeing.

WE CALL ON OUR INAT MEMBERS TO BE PRO-ACTIVE IN WORKING TOWARD FOOD SECURITY FOR AFRICA, THE GLOBAL SOUTH, AND ALL DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.

Let us challenge ourselves and each other to engage in activism around food security. We must employ are technical and organisational skills, our resources and energy to work toward a sustainable approach to food security for all.