

Food Safety

TRAINING SUMMARY

I received a two-week scientific visit to visit Texas A & M University in the United States. During the first week, I attended the International Food Ionizing Processing Symposium held at the Texas A & M Agrilife – The Dallas Center between 26th -28th September 2023. The conference attracted many irradiation users and experts from all over the world. The discussions and presentations were based many themes, such as: Status of commercially available technologies and technologies in the horizon; Adoption of ionizing technology in the food value chain; and Food irradiation: case studies from around the world. On the second day of the workshop, all the participants were taken to an irradiation facility known as Steri-Tek, located in Lewisville, Texas. We had a chance to tour the entire facility and have a hands-on experience of what the company does. This was an eye-opening experience of how we can implement the same technology in my country, Kenya.

The second week of the scientific visit was at the National Center for Electron Beam Research, located at the Food Technology Facility for Electron Beam and Space Food Research, Texas A&M University, Texas AgriLife Research Agency. The center focuses on research related to use of E-beam/ X-ray technology in food safety, food quality, phytosanitary treatment among other topics. Apart from this, we also had a chance to interact with investors and other partners in the irradiation sector who gave their own experiences with regards to irradiation.

WHATS NEXT?

Kenya is preparing to carry out a feasibility study to guide decision making on the establishment of a multipurpose irradiation facility in the country. This scientific visit came timely as we begin this very important exercise as I am now in a better position to assist in the implementation of the project in the country. Additionally, I learnt about how to carry out dosimetry and other related procedures in an irradiation facility. With this knowledge and skills gained, I will be able to make a very positive contribution in the establishment of a multi-purpose state of the art E-beam facility in Kenya.



“This was one of the best experiences in my life; the knowledge and skills gained during this period was very extremely amazing. I am very grateful for this opportunity, special thanks to my host university, the IAEA and the coordinating staff at the Argonne National Laboratories!”

Hannah Mugure Kamano - Kenya

September 24th - October 6th 2023

Hosted by: Texas A&M University