


Member	Biography
 <p data-bbox="175 727 462 783"><b>Florence M. Wambugu</b> Member, AfricaRice Board</p>	<p data-bbox="605 180 1560 368"><b>Dr. Florence M. Wambugu</b> is the Founding Director and Chief Executive Officer of Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International (AHBFI) also known as Africa Harvest (<a href="http://www.africaharvest.org">www.africaharvest.org</a>) since 2002. She is a plant pathologist with specialization in virology holding a Ph.D. from the University of Bath, England (1991), Post-Doctoral Research Associate in genetic engineering-Biotechnology, A life Science Company in USA and holds an Honorary Doctor of Science from University of Bath, England (2008).</p> <p data-bbox="605 407 1523 595">Dr. Wambugu has successfully provided leadership in public/private partnership and scientific consortium for implementation of various major projects for crops and tree improvement, for over 30 years she has dedicated her life to agricultural research where she’s made significant contributions to the improvement of sorghum, maize, pyrethrum, banana and sweet potato with significant impact on the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.</p> <p data-bbox="605 634 1507 790">Authored/co-authored over 200 papers, publications and books in local and international journals, written two books including “Modifying Africa”- How Biotechnology can benefit the Poor and the Hungry (2001), second edition, 2004, Second book “Biotechnology for Africa; Emergence, Initiatives and Future (2014) by Springer.</p> <p data-bbox="605 829 1549 1143">Dr. Wambugu holds several awards and honors from local and international institutions in recognition of her work in Africa including first place medal winner in Global Development Network Awards under science and technology category in Year 2000 for the TC banana project impact. Named as one of the world top 100 most influential people in biotech today by the Scientific American Worldview special report 2015, Awarded Yara Prize 2008, from the Norway-based Yara Foundation for her significant contribution to fight hunger and poverty in Africa. Dr. Wambugu was awarded the Eve Woman of the year Award by the EVE Magazine, in February 2004 in East Africa in recognition of her contribution to science and its application to combat hunger and poverty in Africa. Another award was given to Dr. Wambugu by the South African</p>

government during the commemoration of 10 years of democratic rule for her consistent support to agricultural development. In 2002 she was awarded “Woman of the Year” recognition by the American Biographical Institute for empowering the power through increased food production. She is also a recipient of International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's (IITA) award in 1981 for successful establishment of a tissue culture laboratory in support of root and tuber crops germplasm improvement; KARI's 1989 Crop Science award for excellent performance in scientific conferences; International Potato Centre's (CIP) 1989 Regional Research award/grant (\$10,000), for outstanding advancements in sweet potato research; Pyrethrum Marketing Board of Kenya 1990 farmers support award for successful establishment of a rapid micro-propagation laboratory for pyrethrum (Chrysanthemum) in 1986/7. Recognized by Virology Division of Horticultural Research International in England and KARI in 1991, as exemplary Ph.D. candidate for outstanding dissertation contributions on sweet potato virus disease research work done in Kenya, Monsanto Company Outstanding Performance Award for 1992 and 1993.

Participated in Key Boards including Member of DuPont Biotech Advisory Panel-USA, International Plant Genetic Research Institute, UN Millennium Development goals Hunger Task Force, The Science Board of Bill and Melinda Gates Global Health Challenge and as a Council Member of the Science Technology and Society of Japan.