

Ambassador End of Year_Report_2025_Andrew Egesa

1. Participation in the Plant Biology 2025 conference

I am very grateful to ASPB for the ASPB Ambassador Travel Award and the ASPB-ARN 2025 Plant Biology travel award, which covered my participation in the 2025 Plant Biology conference in Milwaukee. I enjoyed the talks and the collaborations I established at the event. As an ASPB ambassador, I helped organize “the Seeds of Change: ASPB-ARN Celebrating Young Innovators Advancing Food Security and Decarbonization” workshop. The workshop gave poster presenters the opportunity to briefly describe their work to a broader audience, receive recognition, and win an award. We ensured representation from early career to established scientists to foster learning among presenters and attendees.

My roles included facilitating communication among participants, judges, and the organizing team, as well as other tasks related to workshop materials, including preparing the certificates for the award winners. In general, this workshop had a broad intention of providing a platform for recognition, sharing research results from work not selected for oral presentation among Plant Biology Conference participants, and encouraging interest in future participation in similar activities and in ASPB in general. The awards to the winning presenters will support their ASPB membership and participation in the 2026 ASPB Plant Biology Meeting. These recognitions and awards will surely generate lasting interest and motivation in ASPB activities and are a positive contribution to ASPB's plans to attract and retain members. I believe that our workshop and poster awards, along with similar efforts, could be instrumental in encouraging ASPB membership.

2. Planning the ASPB-ARN Celebrating Young Innovators Advancing Food Security and Decarbonization Workshop

I was part of the workshop organizing team, handling pre-conference planning. The process included several meetings with the organizing team (ASPB-ARN members), ASPB, and the 2025 Plant Biology conference organizers to discuss structuring the workshop, identifying participants and their roles, and coordinating with participants and facilitators to secure their interest and availability. We also explored the forms and

avenues for recognizing participants, especially the winners in the workshop's competition component.

Later, I helped review poster abstracts using the final poster competition pre-selection rubric (key categories included relevance to the workshop theme, collaboration, scientific merit, and originality). We began with early-career poster presenters and supplemented our selection with highly ranked, theme-aligned posters from established scientists. We also identified and invited plant scientists from academia and industry, representing early-, middle-, and established-stage scientists, to serve on our panel of judges. Through this, we encouraged their involvement in ASPB activities, and their contributions could also serve positive purposes in the professional world, where evidence of service and community involvement is required.

Plans for 2026

i. Participation in ASPB Midwest & IPG 2026 Symposium

I plan to attend and present my work at the ASPB Midwest meeting in April. I will also be available to volunteer and assist with meeting activities.

ii. ASPB representation in the International and Regional Plant Science Conference, workshops, and symposiums in Africa

As part of the ASPB-ARN, I am interested and plan to continue contributing to the team's efforts, particularly those towards strengthening ASPB's presence in Africa through collaborations and by exploring avenues for ASPB's representation at African plant science conferences and workshops.

iii. ASPB Plantae Blogpost

I am interested in contributing to the ASPB Plantae blog.