



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5th JUNE 2013

AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK 25 MAY - 5th JUNE 2013

“Think.Eat.Save”

1. BACKGROUND

World Environment Day (WED) is an annual event which is widely celebrated on 5th June. The WED was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 and has grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the UN stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and Climate Change to encourage political attention for positive environmental action.

Every year, Rwanda commemorates the World Environment Day and dedicates a whole week to activities of raising awareness on environment and Climate Change issues. WED is a good opportunity to build upon the success made in 2010 when Rwanda successfully hosted WED 2010 at the International level.

This year, the World Environment Day will be celebrated for the 41st time globally and Rwanda celebrates WED and the National Environment Week (NEW) for the 20th time. At this occasion, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) will award the winners of “2012/2013 Best Environmental Performance Awards” for best performed Districts, CBOs/Cooperatives and Media Reporters.

At the international level, the host for World Environment Day, 5 June 2013, will be **Mongolia**, one of the World’s Fastest Growing Economies in a green path and the most vulnerable nation in the world to global warming.”

2. WED 2013 THEME

The theme for this year’s World Environment Day celebrations is **“Think.Eat.Save”**. This theme is dedicated to raise awareness on highlighting the magnitude of the food waste concern and its humanitarian, economic and environmental implications to policy makers, other stakeholders, and to consumers worldwide.

The most important goal of WED 2013 theme is to promote resource efficiency and sustainable production and consumption by reducing our foodprint and wasteful practices. It tackles the whole food chain from production through processing, consumption to final disposal

The 1st part of this theme (**Think**) encourages people to become aware of the environmental implication of food production and wasted food and therefore help save our environment.

In our homes, hotels and restaurants, they prepare more food than needed. A large amount of global food production is wasted every year (approximately 1.3 billion tonnes) while more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger. Food waste contributes to negative environmental impacts like increase of greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss. Waste of food means also waste of all the resources and inputs (Water, energy, etc) used in the production of all the food and more use of energy in food processing and final disposal generates greenhouse gases in the process of degradation in the landfill.

The 2nd part of this theme (**Eat**) encourages people to make informed decisions of the food choices while also improving the quality of their life.

The 3rd part of this theme (**Save**) calls upon people for sustainable consumption, doing more and better with less, reduce their foodprint and adopt a more sustainable lifestyle, through Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

3. PLANED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO WED 2013 THEME

WED 2013 theme's related activities will reach climax during the National Environmental Week from **25th May to 5th June 2013** in all Districts of Rwanda. The following are examples of various activities aiming to reduce our food print in the following main sectors:

A. Activities aiming to reduce environmental impact of food production:

- Awareness and sensitisation on sustainable production based on resource efficiency and cleaner production practice:
 - Water management (rainwater harvesting systems; water purification, recycling and reuse; protection of fragile ecosystems, lakes, rivers and wetlands)
 - Renewable energy and energy efficiency (less energy consuming cooking stoves known as Rondereza, biogas, and solar)
 - Planting fruit and agro-forestry trees
 - Activities aimed at adaptation to effects of climate change by all sectors of the economy.
- Waste audits and product loss analysis in the Markets, Supermarkets, Hotel , Restaurants, Prison, Schools and households
- Waste management (waste sorting, recycling and disposal)

B. Activities aiming to reduce environmental and health impact of food consumption:

- Awareness and sensitisation on how to be smarter about the way we eat, serve, shop for and dispose of our food.
- Grow an organic garden (Akarima k'igikoni) in schools, prisons and household level.
- Reduction of food losses by increasing managerial post-harvest storage facilities for fruits, vegetables, potatoes, maize and milk.
- Promote investments in food processing, packaging and storage.
- Promote standardised labelling and encourage discount and free offers for near-expiration items in the supermarkets
- Increased food donation to people who suffer from hunger.

At National level, the launching of the National Environmental Week will take place on the 25th May 2013 on the date for Community Work “Umuganda Rusange” countrywide. The closing will take place on the **5th June 2013** in Kigali by celebrating WED 2013 and awarding the winners of “2012/2013 Best Environmental Performance Awards”.

4. WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

The event will be overseen by REMA and will be celebrated in all Districts of our country. The whole event brings together all Ministries, Public Institutions, Private Sector, Civil Society, Local and International Community, Schools, Institutions of Higher Learning, as well as the Media. The National Environmental Week and WED thus concerns everyone and cuts across stakeholders and sectors – from producers to consumers – and also across government institutions.



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"Think.Eat.Save"

Tentative Programme

Dates	Activities
14 - 31 May 2013	Higher learning Institutions public lectures on WED 2013 theme Venue: Universities (14 th – 31 May 2013)
23 May 2013	Press Conference to announce WED 2013 theme and National Environment Week (NEW) Venue: MINIRENA conference room at Gishushu, Kigali City. Panel: MINIRENA, MINAGRI, REMA
24 May 2013	Radio programmes on WED 2013 theme and National Environment Week's activities. Venue: Radio Rwanda and other private radios
25 May 2012	Community Work (Umuganda) and official launching of NEW and WED by all Districts. Venue: Kigali Sector near of Ruliba Clays Factory (Construction of terraces)
29 th -30 th May 2013	Food inspection campaign in Hotels/Restaurants and Supermarkets Venue: Kigali City and Districts Participants: REMA, MINISANTE, City of Kigali, RBS, Districts
5 June 2012	WED Ceremony .The focus will be on "Raising awareness of WED 2013 theme "Think.Eat.Save" ✓ Activities determined by Districts ✓ Awards ceremony to the winners of "2012/2013 Best Environmental Performance" for best performed Districts, CBOs/Cooperatives and Media Reporters. Venue: Sports View Hotel

For further details about World Environment Day, please check the following websites:

www.rema.gov.rw or www.unep.org/wed