

# Annual Report 2025



[www.meshascience.org](http://www.meshascience.org)



# Gratitude

In the 2025 financial year, MESHA got financial and technical support from a number of organisations. Top of these is the IDRC which supported two of our projects namely the Promoting knowledge translation of evidence on the nexus of health and climate change which is a one year project that ends on 30 April, 2026 and the second project is the Action Research to Enhance Effective Coverage of Climate Change Issues in Africa (ARECCCA) is a three-year project aiming to amplify African-led climate stories.

Below are logos of our **partners** for 2025 including those who supported the IFAJ Congress 2025;

## Platinum Partner



## Gold Partner



## Silver Partner



## Silver Partner



## Silver Partner



## Bronze Partner



## Valued Partners



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## About Us

**T**he Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture (MESHA) is a Kenyan-based association of journalists and communicators focusing on reporting science for development in Africa.

Registered in Kenya under the Societies Act, MESHA boasts diverse membership comprising of 100 members in Kenya and 100 virtual members across Africa. It is the most active science journalists' association in Africa.

MESHA provides support to science journalists covering environment, health, climate, science and agriculture. It does so by offering training workshops, consultancies as well as establishing and sustaining networking opportunities through meetings and conferences among journalists, scientists and stakeholders in Kenya.

Additionally, MESHA works in collaboration with research institutions and universities to promote and embed science journalism and communication for greater and impactful development in Africa. We believe that in a democratic society, science must be answerable to the public.

There is, therefore, need for innovative and effective communication approaches to synthesise, simplify and communicate the benefits of science and other areas of concern to the general public.

The association advances science journalism and communication in Africa through strategic coordination, innovative programming and impactful partnerships. This has reinforced MESHA's role as a premier convener, trainer and champion in environment, health, climate, science and agriculture communication in Africa.

## Our Secretariat

**T**he MESHA Secretariat is composed of individuals who dedicate part of their time for the association. Due to funding situation, all the staffers are on volunteer and or consultancy terms of agreement and they are Aghan Daniel, CEO and Secretary, MESHA who oversees the running of all activities at the association; Project Officer, Sharon Atieno is in charge of the ARECCCA project. A second Project Officer, Bernard Morara, engaged under the Science Media Cafes Project, is in charge of partnerships and fundraising. Volunteer Projects Liaison Officer, Violet Otindo oversees trainings, production of Sayansi Magazine and work with Parliamentarians. Volunteer Social Media Officer is Kairu Karega in charge of IT, media liaison and social media. Consultant Accountant under John Ombugu ensures proper use of funds and reporting of expenditures in the recommended manner.



Our network remains committed to recognising excellence in journalism given that quality science reporting is essential for accountability, policy influence and societal development.

## Word from the Chairman



Over the past two decades, MESA has steadily improved public understanding of science, amplified evidence-based reporting and strengthened the link between research, innovation and society.

This progress has been driven by our passionate and inquisitive members, who have committed themselves to making science accessible, accurate and relevant to the lives of our people. As MESA, we take pride in helping ensure professional advancement of science journalists in Africa.

In 2025, Kenya's position as a key player in the global science journalism community was reinforced when MESA successfully hosted the IFAJ World Congress 2025.

Hosting this prestigious event raised Kenya's profile and reaffirmed Africa's potential to shape global conversations on science communication, climate resilience, public health, food security, biodiversity and technological innovation. This milestone also showcased MESA's capacity to lead, convene and engage the international science journalism fraternity.

Our progress is rooted in purposeful collaborations. MESA continues to work closely with strategic partners locally, regionally and globally towards advancing science journalism through mentorship, training, fellowships and knowledge exchange platforms.

These collaborations have strengthened newsroom capacities across borders and opened new opportunities for science journalists to thrive in a rapidly evolving media landscape.

We remain committed to recognising excellence in journalism, cognizant of the fact that quality science reporting is essential for accountability, policy influence and societal development. Celebrating excellence inspires credibility, professionalism and innovation, and encourages journalists to uphold integrity and scientific rigour in their work.

A key priority for MESA is the continuous upscale of science journalists' skills. In an era of artificial intelligence, data-driven storytelling and complex scientific challenges, science journalists must be equipped with modern tools and specialized knowledge to report stories of impact with utmost accuracy.

Through capacity-building initiatives, MESA aims to empower journalists to produce compelling stories that inform communities and influence decision-making, including at policy level.

Looking ahead, MESA is pursuing a bold vision: the development of a pathway towards owning a Centre of Excellence for Science Journalists in Africa.

This initiative will serve as a hub for training, research, innovation, and professional networking, supporting a new generation of science communicators who can respond to Africa's development needs and global challenges.

Together, we will continue building a strong, united and influential science journalism community for Kenya and Africa.

**Bozo Jenje Bozo**



Friends from all over the world. MESHA is shifting gears by moving from short-term engagements to long-term programmatic investment approach geared towards addressing pressing cross border needs by putting together a centre of excellence for science journalism.

## Word from the Secretary

For the past 20 years, MESHA has helped to shape the future of science journalism in Africa.

Our mission to transform how science journalism is understood and carried out by the media in Africa remains our clarion call.

Year after year, we have worked to bridge the gap between journalists, researchers and policymakers, and in the process built a vibrant community of journalists and communicators capable of driving public discourse and supporting evidence-based decision-making processes in the continent.

The journey has not been without uncertainty and other challenges.

There have been moments of little funding, and sometimes lesser support from stakeholders who may not fully share the dream.

In 2025, we made a significant step of constructing a perimeter fence around our property, which harbours our dream centre of excellence for science journalism in Africa.

For each of these milestones, big or small, we are reminded of the courage that is necessary for us to achieve the bold dream that is MESHA. They say the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.

In our long term vision, The Centre stands as a lasting legacy, as it will be useful in ensuring science journalists make it happen by promoting their own visions and building a centre for science journalism for generations to come.

Over the two decades that MESHA has thrived, the secret has been with its leadership, which has remained firmly focused on delivering tangible benefits to members and ensuring they grow in their careers. Few members exit MESHA. If they ever do, it will be after fulfilling their career dreams and having been moulded into brands of global standards.

Going forward, MESHA is shifting gears by moving from short-term engagements to long-term programmatic investment approach geared towards empowering our members to focus ahead, unleash their potential as they firmly wrestle the shrinking media employment space.



Our goal is to empower our members to be even better professionals with stronger and sustainable earning potential, and more international exposure.

For this reason, 2026 is poised to be one of deeper reflection, as well as reviewing of our vision, mission and objectives. We will develop a knowledge sharing strategy and a robust resource mobilisation strategy too. MESHA is on a roll, with a clear focus, and nothing will stop us from excelling.

**Aghan Daniel**

# 4.0 Flagship Projects

## 4.1 Scaling media science cafés at national, regional and global levels

Since 2007, MESHA has conducted a series of Science Media Cafés bringing together journalists, scientists and activists to share and translate research and knowledge on emerging scientific breakthroughs.

The Cafés provide an excellent forum for connecting journalists with experts, helping to break down issues emerging in science and practice for media coverage and reporting.

While some of the Cafés were physical, others were virtual, held at various levels of the system; national, regional and global levels, depending on the topics and issues that were being discussed and shared. A total seven Media Science Cafés were held at the national, regional and global levels, reaching more than 400 journalists and communicators, helping to amplify and increase the visibility of health and science issues at the local and international levels.

## 4.2 Action research to enhance effective coverage of climate issues in Africa

With the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Eastern and Southern Africa Office based in Nairobi, Kenya, MESHA launched Action Research to Enhance Effective Coverage of Climate Change Issues in Africa.

The project aims to, among other things, understand the gaps and opportunities in climate journalism and communication with a view to strengthening its coverage and reporting in Africa.

As a first step, MESHA conducted a literature review on the status and trends on climate change coverage and reporting in Africa. Being a participatory action methodology research, MESHA selected and recruited 8 media fellows from 6 countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa regions.

We introduced them to the project and guided them in how to generate stories on climate change in Africa. They have been able to do these while at the same time taking part in reflective and interactive sessions leading to improvements in the framing of climate change coverage and reporting in Africa.

## 4.3 Improved access to climate change information

We enhanced access to credible and timely climate change information by holding a Media Science Café in partnership with Action Aid where the media fellows attended. A total of 80 participants joined the virtual meeting. It was designed to deepen their understanding of just transition issues in the lead-up to the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP30) hosted in Belem, Brazil in November 2025.

## 4.4 Venturing into reporting certified seed



Violet Otindo at a field tour to one of the farms during ISF Congress 2025

Violet Otindo participated in the International Seed Federation (ISF) World Seed Congress held in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 19–21 May 2025. She was picked through her membership at MESHA, the official Kenyan national guild member of the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ), which coordinated media engagement at the Congress.

During the event, she engaged with global stakeholders in the seed sector, gaining insights into emerging trends and innovations shaping agricultural development. She also joined field tours that provided practical exposure to seed systems and farming practices.

Violet produced news stories published by the Kenya News Agency (KNA) and a short video documenting the field tour experience. Her participation highlights MESHA's role in strengthening agricultural journalism through global knowledge exchange.



Caroline Karobia, the Africa Manager at Solutions Journalism Network, speaking during a media science Café hosted by MESHA in Nairobi. She urged media practitioners to focus more on stories that highlight responses to pressing societal issues, particularly on sexual and reproductive health.

## 4.5 Solutions journalism

**W**e conducted a one-day Solutions Journalism training, bringing together 20 journalists to rethink how stories are framed, not just highlighting problems, but also interrogating responses, evidence and impact. This session laid a strong foundation for more constructive, public-interest reporting and reaffirmed our belief that journalism can be a tool for accountability and positive change.

## 4.6 Mobile Journalism

**T**o acknowledge the importance of sustainability and long-term impact, we conducted a follow-up engagement with our 2024 cohort of Mobile Journalism (MoJo) trainees.

This session allowed us to track progress, understand how the skills are being applied in real newsroom settings and identify challenges journalists continue to face.

Encouragingly, the 20 participants reported active use of mobile tools for reporting, storytelling and audience engagement—demonstrating that previous investments in training continue to yield tangible results.

## 4.7 Use of Artificial Intelligence and social media for health reporting

**A**s technology continues to reshape journalism, we prioritised on future-ready skills. We held a two-day training on the use of Artificial Intelligence and Social Media for Health Reporting for 20 journalists, equipping them with practical tools to responsibly use AI in research, verification and storytelling while amplifying credible health information online.

This training was particularly timely in addressing misinformation and strengthening evidence-based health reporting.

## 4.8 Data Journalism training

**A**dditionally, we organized a two-day Data Journalism training, empowering 25 participants with skills to find, analyse and interpret data for compelling public-interest stories.

Journalists were introduced to practical data tools and techniques, enabling them to uncover hidden trends, enhance investigative reporting and present complex information in accessible formats.

In the year, MESHA continued to build a community of skilled, ethical and innovative journalists who are better equipped to serve their audiences.

With continued donor support, we aim to deepen these training, expand our reach and ensure journalists remain responsive to emerging technologies, societal needs and the evolving information ecosystem.



Emily Chebet of Citizen TV at one of the training sessions organised for members in the past year.



As the year drag to a close, MESHA members received training on how to edit science stories a critical skill that bridges the gap between complex research and public understanding, while enhancing scientific careers.

## 4.9 Editing course for health and science journalists

**T**he association conducted a training on editing of stories for the first cohort of health and science journalists.

Twelve journalists affiliated to MESHA and working at various media houses in Kenya, participated in the one-day training.

The training helped improve journalists skills and competency in generating and processing stories for publication.

The course entailed editing news/features for clarity, accuracy, brevity and coherence; applying grammar, punctuation and style rules; writing compelling headlines, leads and captions; editing content for print, broadcast and digital platforms; upholding ethical, legal and professional standards in editing.

Journalists were engaged in hands-on editing exercises, drawing from text samples of real stories generated and transmitted to newsrooms, requiring the journalists to edit the stories to clean copies while paying special attention to structure and clarity.

It also involved journalists undertaking structural editing, line editing and proofreading as well as editing for clarity, flow and coherence.

While editing stories, the facilitator emphasised the need for always being guided by the house style of the media houses or publishers of newspapers, magazines or journals.

Other key issues to keep in mind were punctuation, attribution and quotation rules. Of great importance at the training was fact checking using available and standard tools, besides ensuring that stories are objective and credible.

## 4.10 Achieving more through an Africa-wide Science Media Café Consortium

**T**he African Science Media Café Consortium was launched in 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The association comprises Science Media Cafés present in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. MESHA is the host of the Consortium.

The aim of the group is to improve journalistic understanding and reporting on HIV prevention research and other complex health issues, combat misinformation and incorporate diverse perspectives into health and science stories.

MESHA developed a model constitution and began the process of formally registering the Consortium in Kenya under the Societies Act.

The registration documents were filed with the Registrar of Societies in November 2025.

The registration process is expected to be finalised in the first quarter of 2026.

MESHA led the Consortium in bringing together 120 participants for 2 Cross-border Science Media Cafes on topical themes, including on "how climate change affects global (and local) health".

In attendance were all the members and convenors of the Consortium - Health Journalists Network of Uganda (HEJNU); Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA); JournAids from Malawi; Media Science Cafés from Zambia; and Health Communicators Forum from Zimbabwe.

The convenors designed the agenda, mobilised scientists and experts in their countries, who made presentations during the science cafes. This ensured the association remained inclusive.

# 5.0 Delivering landmark congress

## 5.1 MESHA successfully hosts International Federation of Agricultural Journalists Congress 2025



From October 14 to 18, delegates from around the world converged in Nairobi, Kenya for the IFAJ World Congress of Agricultural Journalists 2025. About 200 journalists, media professionals, scientists and experts from 40 countries attended.

The Congress featured two days of in-session workshops and another two days of field trips to Kenya's agricultural sites, where journalists and media professionals witnessed first-hand best practices and innovations in agriculture.

The event, the first of its kind in East Africa, convened top journalists, media professionals, and agricultural communicators from across the world to share knowledge and foster cross border collaboration in agriculture.

It served as a platform to showcase Kenya's agricultural potential, innovations and challenges to the world, and also provided African journalists with an unparalleled opportunity to engage with their international counterparts.

Hosting the IFAJ Congress significantly bolstered MESHA's organisational structure, enhancing its visibility and credibility, particularly with the Kenyan government.

The event also opened doors for new networks, creating opportunities for growth and increasing access to resources locally and internationally.

## 5.2 Publication of Daily IFAJ World Congress Bulletins

Over the period of the IFAJ World Congress between October 15 and 18, 2025, MESHA coordinated the compilation, publication and sharing of Daily Congress Bulletins. The production was part of efforts to communicate everything about the IFAJ World Congress, including the rationale, objectives, deliberations and field trips during the landmark event.

Six editions of the Daily Congress Bulletins were compiled and published prior, during and immediately after the IFAJ World Congress. In the end, a bumper issue, a compilation of all the daily bulletins, was produced and disseminated widely. It featured and highlighted incisive presentations and discussions, field tours and the take-home from the IFAJ World Congress.

## 5.3 Pomp as MESHA celebrates 20 years

With pomp and colour, MESHA celebrated its 20th anniversary of driving science journalism and communication in Kenya and Africa.

The celebrations were held in October alongside the IFAJ World Congress 2025 at the Ole Sereni Hotel in Nairobi. The year 2025 marked two decades of dedication, commitment and hard work in delivering science journalism and communication in Kenya and Africa. MESHA has grown into an established, leading media association in Africa, with expanded operations, diversified portfolio and strong presence in the region.

MESHA has continued to build collaborations with governments and media associations in Kenya and Eastern Africa, and by so doing driven science journalism and communication, benefiting the region in unlocking development.

Over the period, the network has broken the glass ceiling, delivering high end projects by working closely with different media associations, scientists, individual journalists and experts in synthesising and simplifying science and research for ease of putting the same into practical use by farmers and influencing policy. During the celebrations, MESHA appreciated partners for their loyalty and trust. In 2026, MESHA is determined to deliver quality partnerships and productive engagements with journalists and media associations in Africa while remaining committed to honouring its core values.



## 6.0 Advancing partnerships and collaborations

### 6.1 Road to Bellem: Partnership with ActionAid

This was another year of impactful partnership with ActionAid on COP30. MESHA held a Media Science Café bringing together journalists and climate change experts at the global level to discuss Just Transition, as the world converged at Belem, Brazil for the global negotiations.

The theme of the Media Science Café was “The Road to Bellem: A Just Transition”. The Café reflected on the challenges associated with climate change, calling for action amid a just transition. The session rallied journalists and communicators to report accurately on Just Transition and ensure the voices of communities were at the centre of transition action mechanisms.

### 6.2 Advocating the Parliamentary Health Committee on the nexus between climate change and health

MESHA took advocacy on the nexus between climate change and health a notch higher by initiating engagement with Kenya’s Parliamentary Committee on Health through collaboration with Health NGOs Network (HENNET) and like-minded civil society organisations. The aim of the engagement was to deepen understanding of the pivotal committee on the linkage between climate change and broader health issues and challenges, including HIV.

A communique was signed during a breakfast meeting with the Parliamentary Health Committee meeting, where MESHA was the lead media coordinator. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for the first quarter of 2026. This will provide an opportunity to push for additional investment in science journalism and domestic financing for health in the 2026 annual national budget.

### 6.3 Mentoring students on health and science journalism

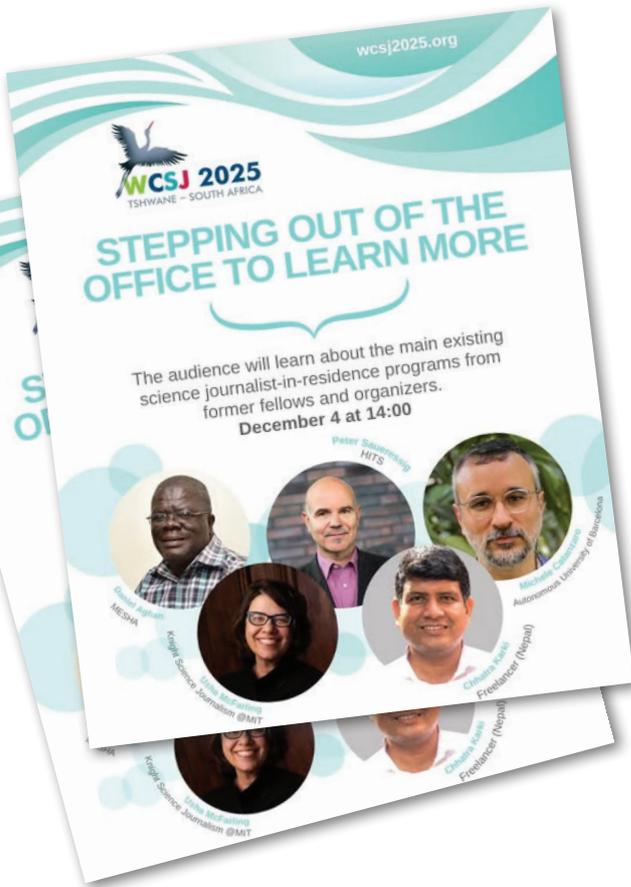
In 2025, MESHA collaborated with Maseno University in mentoring journalism students in science communication. The benefit of introducing science journalism and communication to students in their early years are huge, as they develop the necessary skills and competencies to cover and report science stories. They therefore progress liking science communication in later years after university and in their careers.

MESHA invited a student to attend and participate in a Media Science café in Nairobi. The café was entitled ‘Long-acting PrEP rollout: Where are we?’ While in attendance, the student interacted with experts and journalists, and asked questions around the newly launched HIV/ Aids PrEP choice Lenacapavir, climate change and science related matters. This exposed the students to the principles, operation and goal of Media Science Cafés.

The students learnt how scientists and experts interact with journalists to break down science breakthroughs. Working with journalism students creates a lasting impact of telling science stories. This gesture also serves as a model for entrenching more sustainable structures that support health journalism for posterity.

# 7.0 Key Strategic Forums

## 7.1 Representation at 13th World Conference of Science Journalists, 2025



**M**ESHA was among the associations the world over that took part in the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists 2025 held in Pretoria, South Africa. The biennial Conference is the largest international event for science journalists where delegates meet to learn, grow and thrive. It was the first time the Conference was being held in Africa.

The forum attracted a large number of participants, attracted by a wide range of tours, seminars, lectures, and networking opportunities to expand their horizons in a lively, engaging setting.

The Conference was hosted by the South African Science Journalists' Association and the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa, an initiative and entity of the National Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, in collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

MESHA CEO, Aghan Daniel and Project Officer Sharon Atieno represented MESHA at the five-day conference. Participation of MESHA is testament of the role and growth of the organisation as a transformative association of journalists focusing on environment, science, health and agriculture in Africa.

Aghan spoke on the topic, "Stepping out of the office to learn", where the audience learnt about the science journalist-in-residence programmes from former fellows and organizers.

The forum was held barely a month after MESHA hosted the IFAJ Congress in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2025.

## 7.2 MESHA at African Conference on Agricultural Technologies (ACAT)

**T**he second edition of the African Conference on Agricultural Technologies (ACAT) concluded on June 12 in Kigali, Rwanda, with strong resolutions to advance agricultural technology in the region. Convened by the Rwandan Government, the African Agriculture Technology Foundation (AATF), and its partners in Kigali, Rwanda, the conference adopted a declaration known as the Kigali Declaration.

This is a set of actionable commitments to scale up the adoption of agricultural technologies, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and enhance youth and private sector involvement across Africa's food systems.

MESHA was represented in the four-day event by the CEO, Aghan Daniel. The conference offered an excellent opportunity to meet partners who played a key role in the success of the World Congress of Agricultural Journalists.

## 7.3 Participation at the 13th International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference, Rwanda

**M**ESHA, with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), participated in the 13th International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference held in Kigali, Rwanda (13–17 July 2025). Representing MESHA, Violet Otindo engaged in strategic networking, science communication, and media coverage aimed at amplifying African perspectives in the global HIV response.

Participation strengthened MESHA's partnerships with regional and global stakeholders while enhancing capacity in science journalism, storytelling, and research dissemination. The engagement successfully contributed to MESHA's mission of strengthening science communication and promoting informed public dialogue on health and development across Africa.

# 8.0 Publications and social media work

## 8.1 Publication of Sayansi Magazine continues

During the year, MESHA's flagship Sayansi Magazine published one edition, bringing the total number of editions to 43.

Edition 43 saw the publishing of 13 science stories with a total of 30 pages.

The Board, secretariat team and the editorial team hereby congratulate our science contributors for a good work in the edition produced in 2025 with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Eastern and Southern Africa office.



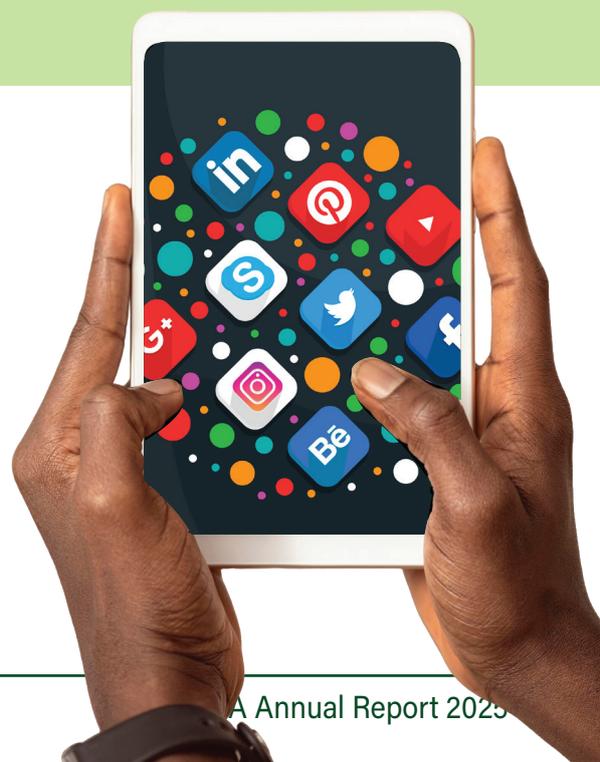
## 8.2 Website Content

A total of **41 articles** were published on the MESHA website in 2025. This includes the following Sayansi Magazine issues and bulletins:

1. Sayansi Magazine Issue 41
2. Sayansi Magazine Issue 42
3. Sayansi Magazine Edition 43: Timeless African Science, Health & Development Stories
4. IFAJ World Congress Bulletin 2025: Unlocking Africa's Agricultural Potential

## 8.3 Digital Platforms Analytics

- X (Twitter): **3,684 followers**
- Facebook: **2,600 followers**
- LinkedIn: **1,770 followers**
- YouTube: **246 subscribers, 51 videos**
- Instagram: **143 followers**



## 8.4 Harvest time as MESHA celebrates science media award winners



**Milliam Murigi**

1st Runners Up: International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) 2025, Star Prize Award

Winner: Reporting Competition on Transboundary Pests, IGAD-ICPAC Award 2025  
Winner: GenBio-Africa Promotional Award 2025, Science Category



**Anita Omwenga**

Winner:

NCD Alliance Kenya 2025 Media Award: Food Systems (Agriculture, Policy and Safety)



**Asha Bekidusa**

Winner:

NCD Alliance, Kenya 2025 Media Award, Environment, Climate Change and Health



**Kevine Omollo**

Winner:

Annual Journalism Excellence Award (AJEA) 2025, Financial and Business Reporting



**Sharon Atieno**

1st Runners Up:

Annual Journalism Excellence Award (AJEA) 2025, Agriculture and Food Security Category



**Emily Chebet**

1st Runners-Up:

NCD Alliance, Kenya 2025 Media Award: Food Systems (Agricultural, Policy and Safety)



**Reyhab Watari**

Winner: International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) Star Prize Award, Video Category

1st Runners Up: Annual Journalism Excellence Award (AJEA) 2025, Best Television Production



**Jackson Okata**

2nd Runners Up:

NCD Alliance, Kenya 2025 Media Award: Food Systems (Agriculture Policy and Safety)



**Steven Mokaya**

International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) 2025 Star Prize Award for 1st Place Audio, How Maasai Women are Countering Drought with Beekeeping

2nd Runners Up:

Annual Journalism Excellence Award (AJEA) 2025, Podcast of the Year

## 8.5 MESHA member picked for Reproductive Health Rights Master Class

**A**ngeline Ochieng, a MESHA member from Kisumu, and a journalist at Nation Media Group, in western part of Kenya was one of the six journalists selected for the coveted Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Masterclass training for 2025-26. The initiative covers four Eastern and Southern Africa countries, namely Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia.

## MESHA at 20: A Nigerian journalist's tribute By Adam Alqali



At the opening ceremony of the 2025 World Congress of Agricultural Journalists in Nairobi, MESHA marked its 20th anniversary in the presence of journalists who had travelled from around the globe.

**T**he story of my career as an international award-winning journalist cannot be complete without the mention of Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture (MESHA), a membership association of journalists, scientists and communicators. MESHA, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year, was founded in 2005 as a non-profit media to champion the interests of science journalists in Kenya and Africa. I am proud to say I am not only a beneficiary of MESHA's trainings, but also that the training was career-shaping for me.

It all began at 15:47 WAT on Monday, September 26, 2016, when I received an email from Aghan Daniel, MESHA's Secretary, confirming my selection to participate in an upcoming training on infectious diseases for non-science African journalists.

Exactly a week earlier, I had submitted my application to participate in the training that was organised by MESHA in collaboration with the World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ).

In my reflection piece, I said the training left me "convinced that science reporting could be an integral part of the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation in Africa.

By translating complex scientific jargon into simpler, understandable language for the consumption of both policymakers and the general public, science journalism will foster public interest in STI issues."

For me, beyond the takeaways, the MESHA/WFSJ training launched my international career as a journalist, opening the floodgates of international workshops and conferences. My career took a turn for the better as I began getting opportunities, which I now share with my team members at African Newspaper.

I have also won many awards and media fellowships, including the 2018 West Africa Media Excellence and Conference Awards (WAMECA) in SDGs reporting. In May 2017, I won the International Travel Fellowship of the 10th World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ) held in San Francisco.

Equally, I am pleased to have mentored younger journalists, some who write for the world's leading science publications like Nature.

Beyond training science journalists, MESHA has built a track record of hosting high-profile congresses and conferences bringing together journalists, scientists, donors, and communicators from Africa and beyond.



Team work at MESHA is the foundation on which the association is built. The network brings scientists, advocates, and journalists together through a monthly forum known as Science Media Science Café, a forum where technical and complicated health issues are broken down into everyday language for better understanding of science reporting among journalists and the general public.

MESHA believes science must be answerable to the public, hence the necessity to find new and innovative ways of effectively communicating about the benefits of science.

Over time, MESHA has identified a crucial missing link in Africa: an effective and result-oriented continental entity to solidify Africa's gains in science journalism by keeping science journalists up-to-date on the latest trends, providing training and networking opportunities for them, policymakers, and communicators. Thus, MESHA stepped in to fill the void by initiating the African Conference of Science Journalists, which has been held five times: 2012, 2014, 2018, 2020 and 2023.

In 2025, MESHA made history by hosting IFAJ, the biggest global gathering of agricultural journalists.

This was the first time this Congress was being hosted in East Africa, and outside of South Africa, which hosted it in 2004 and 2017.

In achieving this, MESHA collaborates with bodies such as Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC); the CGIAR, icipe, Centre for Science and Environment – India, Croplife International, African Agricultural Technology Foundation, International Seed Federation, Andermatt and BASF.

To foster continued dialogue between scientists, advocates, and journalists, MESHA's monthly Media Science Café, a forum where technical and complicated health issues are broken down into everyday language for better understanding of science reporting among journalists and the general public, continues to thrive. Through the Science Media Cafés, MESHA is further entrenching science journalism in Africa.

Another milestone for MESHA is sponsorship for African journalists to cover COP meetings. Thus far, it has supported over 20 journalists to cover COP27, COP28 and COP29 in Egypt, Dubai and Baku respectively.

MESHA also publishes a quarterly informative science magazine called Sayansi Magazine, and runs a science mentorship programme for African science journalists at all levels of career development.

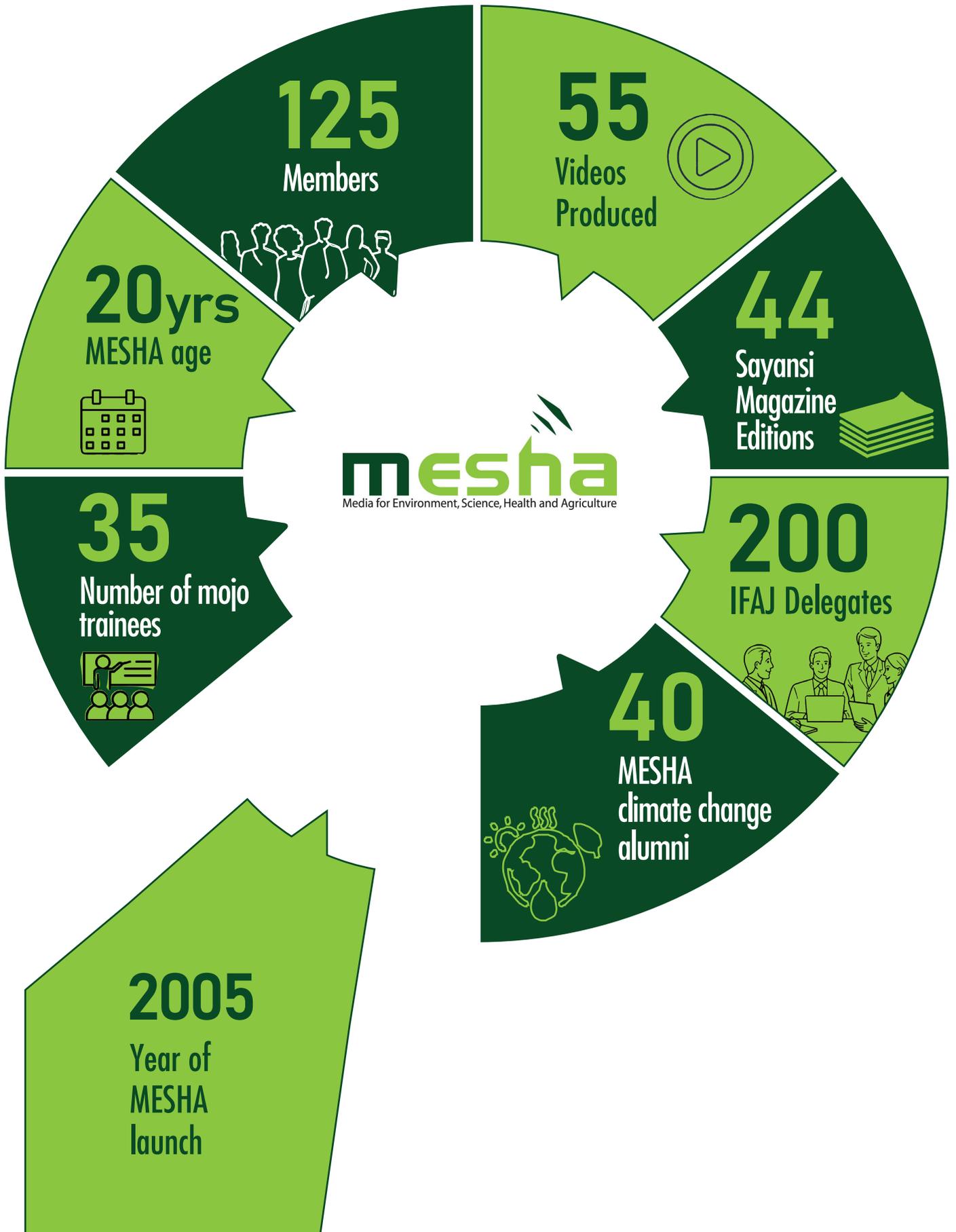
This ensures that once in MESHA, members do not see themselves as employees of specific media houses or research centres. By working closely with science journalists, both upcoming and experienced, MESHA continues to spread the gospel of science journalism in Africa.

**Adam Alqali is the Editor-in-Chief of the African Newspaper, a pan African digital publication reporting Africa's development**



Professor Elizabeth Bukusi, a senior researcher on HIV, is one of the scientists who have had excellent relationship with MESHA by regularly speaking at the association's monthly science media cafes.

# 10.0 MESHA story in figures



# 11.0 ARECCCA Climate Change Media Fellowship

2025



**Catherine Tembo**  
*Malawi*



**Gracien Seif Hasingizwimana**  
*Rwanda*



**Irene Shone**  
*Botswana*



**Isaack Dickson**  
*Tanzania*



**Juliet Akoth**  
*Kenya*



**Lungelo Ndhlovu**  
*Zimbabwe*



**Laura Otieno**  
*Kenya*



**Temwa Mhone**  
*Malawi*

The ARECCCA project aims to empower African journalists, especially women, to tell transformative climate stories, focusing on grassroots impacts, gendered health, and green livelihoods with support from IDRC (International Development Research Centre Eastern and Southern Africa Office, Nairobi). The initiative uses media fellowships, science cafés, and research to rewrite climate narratives and promote inclusive, science-based climate reporting across Africa.

# 12.0 Pictorial



Winners of IFAJ/Alltech Young Leaders Program – a unique international leadership opportunity for agricultural journalists aged 35 and under.



Kenyan tea was one of the highlights of the IFAJ Congress 2025. Farmers in Kenya have recently embraced climate-resilient tea clones.



Abby Wairimu, a data scientist makes a presentation on Virtual Agronomist, a groundbreaking technology that provides farmers with science-based, site-specific advisory services through a WhatsApp chatbot. The technology provides farmers with real-time, site-specific advice, ensuring better yields and sustainable farming.



A journalist from West Africa shows off healthy tomatoes in a shop. MESHA boasts of a large foot print in Africa.



Delegates at the Congress 2025 engage a leader from Rift Valley's Baringo County involved in a Government of Kenya Project focusing on ensuring food security and building resilience. The project, exhibited at the Congress is known as Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP).



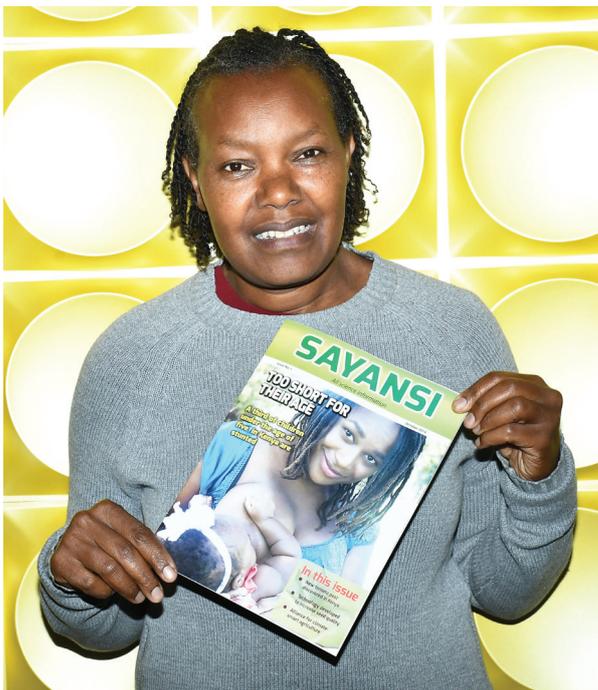
Stellah Wafukoh from Croplife International makes a point during the October 2025 historic International Federation of Agricultural Journalists Congress held in Nairobi, Kenya.



Gloria Gummerus, Director of Sakami Ranch at the IFJA 2025 Congress. Her organisation is part of North of the Rift Women in coffee (NORT), BASF, a silver sponsor of the event, has supported the Association to acquire a milling warehouse with a coffee drying mill and a lab for traceability and quality check.



A worker at a flower farm in Nairobi. Flowers sector is experiencing a boom with exports projected to reach 280,000 tonnes in 2025. MESHAs members have been reporting frequently on the fortunes of flower farming in the country. Kenya exports over a billion vibrant stems each year brightening homes and hearts worldwide to ensure that flower growers prioritize sustainability.

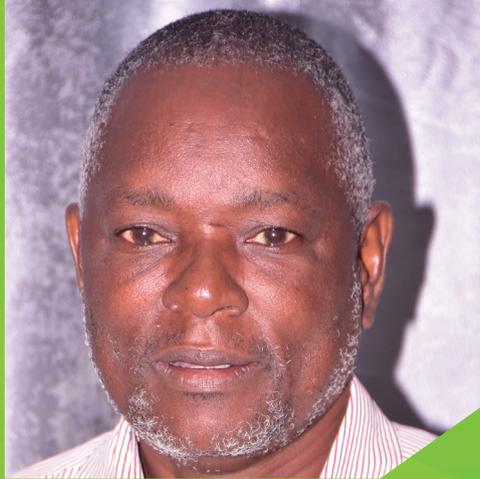


Wanjiru Macharia, a senior MESHAs member, displays the first edition of Sayansi Magazine dated November 2014. Today, the magazine is at its 45th edition.



Christine Masta, a Communication expert from BASF makes a presentation at the Congress on coffee farming in Kenya. Globally renowned for its high-quality Arabica beans, the crop in the country is characterized by bright, intense acidity and fruity, complex flavors like blackcurrant, citrus and winey notes.

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