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Alastair J Taylor
Chief Executive
Institution of Agricultural Engineers
University Way, Cranfield, Bedford MK43 0GH
Email: secretary@iagre.org

Dear Mr Taylor,

Acceptance of Douglas Bomford Paper Award

On behalf of my co-authors, I am very delighted to accept the Douglas Bomford Paper Award from the Institution of Agricultural Engineers. I thank the Awards Panel and IAgrE Council for favourably considering our paper published in Biosystems Engineering on "Estimation of the density of pomegranate fruit and their fractions using X-ray computed tomography calibrated with polymeric materials".

At the 2016 RUFORUM Biennial Conference and 5th AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION WEEK held in South Africa, our oral presentation based on this paper was awarded a top prize for its scientific merit. The present award by the IAgrE Council affirms the quality of both our research and the paper. My co-authors and I are deeply honoured to be selected by the Panel.

Our research is highly driven by the need to solve practical problems facing the rapidly emerging pomegranate industry in South Africa and globally. While South Africa's contribution to global production of pomegranates is very small, research outputs from my Team has placed us as the leading institution, globally, on pomegranate postharvest research. As most countries in Africa struggle to improve agricultural productivity to reduce poverty and promote widespread economic development, we believe that demand-driven agricultural engineering research for socio-economic impact must underpin ongoing efforts to transformation and enhance the global competitiveness of agriculture in Africa.

This Award provides a major boost and encouragement to us, especially the lead author (Mr Ebrahiema Arendse), who is currently busy writing up his PhD thesis on non-destructive measurement of quality in pomegranate fruit.

Once again, thank you for the award and we look forward to submitting more quality and impactful articles to our premier journal – Biosystems Engineering.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Umezuruike Linus Opara, CEng MIAgrE CFS FSAIAE

Distinguished Professor & DST-NRF South African Research Chair in Postharvest Technology
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