



ADM Institute for the
Prevention of Postharvest Loss
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



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Key Articles



Three technologies launched to reduce postharvest losses in Tanzania

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Rockefeller Foundation have partnered to test three storage technologies for use by smallholder farmers



China wastes half as much grain as it imports

China wastes 35 million metric tons of grain each year because of poor storage, transportation, and processing

News

Issues of Loss

Large grain borer pest causing huge loss to Kenya maize farmers *Coastweek*

The large grain borer, a pest that mainly affects maize production, is causing losses in Kenya as farmers struggle to control the pest. With poor drying practices and storage infrastructure, the grain borer has easy access to maize in postharvest phases. In addition, the grain borer has grown resistant to many chemicals used in treatment, which has intensified the issue.

Make the switch: association urges the use of jute bags for wheat storage *The Express Tribune*

The Pakistan Jute Mills Association (PJMA) is urging the federal government to ensure implementation of the UN's guidelines for food storage of items. According to the PJMA, the polypropylene plastic storage bags that are used do not allow wheat, a living organism, to breathe properly, leading to deterioration. They argue for jute bags to be used, which allow stored wheat to respire.

High cost of shelling, drying maize adds burden to Kenyan farmers *Coastweek*

Maize farmers in Kenya face high costs for postharvest processing of their crop, which leads to up to 30% of losses throughout the country due to rot and quality reduction. At harvest, demand is high to rent mechanized shelling and drying services because local machinery is often very limited. Many farmers avoid costs using a sun-drying method, where moisture content is hard to control.

Ethiopia: crop loss tackling underwhelms *All Africa*

With immense losses during postharvest processing, farmers in Ethiopia have urged for investments in postharvest handling to match that of preharvest handling. The Central Statistics Agency reports loss data as 26pc teff, maize 23.3pc, barley 18.9c, and beans 19.6pc. A main challenge is losses during threshing, and major causes include small land plots for processing, wind, and consumption and damage by animals.

Projects

D-Lab scale-ups fellows to tackle irrigation in India and grain storage in Zambia *MIT News*

Carl Jensen, a fellow from the D-Lab (Development through Dialogue, Design & Dissemination) at MIT, has established an organization to improve food security in Zambia. The organization, Zasaka, works to provide adequate storage to smallholder farmers by introducing the Purdue Improved Crop Storage bag. Through the D-Lab, Jensen has received a \$20,000 grant to further his research and refine his work.

USAID and TOPS award grant to WFLO to evaluate postharvest capacity-building in Sub-Saharan Africa *Global Cold Chain Alliance*

The World Food Logistics Organization (WFLO) has received a grant from USAID to evaluate postharvest improvements in Sub-Saharan Africa. The WFLO has already established the Postharvest Training and Services Center (PTSC) in Tanzania. The PTSC model involves training, demonstrations, cold storage services, and a shop for postharvest tools and supplies. Using this model, the WFLO hopes to expand its operations in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Workshop focuses on grain storage issues *AgriNews*

To help farmers understand how to store crops efficiently and without loss, Purdue Extension and the Indiana Grain and Feed Association will hold a workshop on December 19th, 2014 in West Lafayette, Indiana. The "Postharvest Update and Recertification Workshop" will cover topics from insect biology to the economics of stored grain.

Technology

Kenyan farmers to use pest-resistant bags for reducing losses *Coastweek*

ZeroFly, the first insecticide-incorporated storage bag, could help farmers in Kenya and underdeveloped nations reduce postharvest losses of grain. With the insecticide woven into the fibers of the bag, grain pests are killed prior to infestation of the crop. The storage bag is currently in experimental phase, and could become available in February 2015.

Kenyan farmers embrace moisture analyzer to beat aflatoxin *Coastweek*

In Kenya, small gadgets that test moisture content of grain, a huge contribution to postharvest losses in maize and beans, are now a common fixture on farms. Grain that is not well-dried is prone to mold and insects and is rejected by warehouses. The gadgets, whose use is promoted by the government, allow farmers to test and monitor whether further drying is needed.

Reports

Postharvest losses high - study *Ghana Web*

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Urban Association Limited (TUAL) conducted research on staple crops in 11 African countries during 2013. The report has revealed that half of food crops produced in Ghana are lost before reaching consumers. As much as 60 percent of yams, 70 percent of maize, 27 percent of rice, and 18 percent of cassava are lost in production.

Awareness

Reducing waste, increasing efficiency (Video) *The Washington Post*

Robert van Otterdijk from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Steven Waldmann from the Society of St. Andrew, and Caroline Kronley from the Rockefeller Foundation discuss food loss and waste during a Feed the Future event. The video broadly addresses issues leading to losses throughout the supply chain from developing nations to developed nations. Solutions incorporating scale and sustainability will lead to improvements in supply chain efficiency.

UN sounds alarm over massive global food waste *Bangkok Post*

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization is raising awareness on food loss in developing countries. Rosa S Rolle, senior agro-industries and postharvest officer at FAO, stated that food loss is occurring throughout all levels of the supply chain in developing countries. In response, the FAO has established the National Save Food Network to raise awareness on ways to reduce postharvest losses.

Opinions

Bringing fresh solutions to the challenge of global food security *The Rockefeller Foundation*

The disparity between postharvest loss solutions and the success of the implementation can be high. A blog post on the Rockefeller Foundation website discusses reasons behind the disparity. According to the article, reducing postharvest losses is about more than implementing technologies and techniques, but instead a complicated web of interactions throughout the entire supply chain. Therefore, the inherent success of a postharvest intervention lies in the active network of stakeholders coordinating strategically.

Related Articles

- **Horticulturists join the DPI to to maximize the quality and safety of NSW fruit and vegetables available to consumers**
- **Postharvest exclusive: from analyzing losses to adding value, NRI solutions featured in recent Guardian article**
- **Simple, reliable and cost effective postharvest machineries for horticultural produce**
- **AAITG trains vegetable growers on food technology to reduce postharvest loss**
- **Postharvest losses [of fruits and vegetables] in India \$2.2 billion annually**

Conferences & Symposiums

- 19 December 2014 - West Lafayette, IN, USA
Postharvest Update and Recertification Workshop
- 7 - 8 January 2015 - Tamil Nadu, India
International Symposium on Advances in Storage and Postharvest Processing of Foods for Better Health
- 11 - 12 January 2015 - Dubai, United Arab Emirates
International Conference on Chemical, Food and Environment Engineering (ICCFEE'15)
- 21 - 22 January 2015 - Washington, DC, USA
First Annual Food Tank Summit
- 10 February 2015 - Urbana, IL, USA
Food Systems for Food Security Symposium
- 3 - 6 August 2015 - Manhattan, Kansas, USA
International Food Security Symposium
- 4 - 7 October 2015 - Rome, Italy
First International Congress on Postharvest Loss Prevention

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