

PHL in the News

February 28, 2014

The following items have appeared recently in newspapers, blogs, on websites and other media regarding PHL and might be of interest to affiliates of the ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss.

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Issues of Loss

- [Shifting of maize drying plant costs 1.5 cr](#)
Lobbying by commission agents has resulted in a maize drying facility in Punjab, India, being moved from its original location in a grain market. This has caused the price of the project to increase substantially.
- [Can China's food crisis be avoided?](#)
Some food security experts fear a crisis may be imminent in China due to the current state of the country's agricultural production. A primary concern is China's grain market, where factors such as inefficient storage, low incentives, environmental constraints, and others keep production low and inhibit the country from achieving self-sufficiency.
- [State accused of giving IDPs contaminated maize](#)
Families living in Nyandarua County, Kenya, have accused the government of supplying them with maize contaminated with aflatoxins. Food relief requests were put in throughout the year prior to the delivery of the contaminated maize. Trucks had to be hired to bring the maize back to the distribution center to avoid people consuming it.
- [Thai rice subsidy to expire](#)
Thai rice farmers will return to the free market when a controversial rice subsidy expires this month. The government has yet to fully compensate farmers for previous months' payments, which has led to protests throughout the country.

Projects

- [IRRI joins "Consumer and Marketplace Literacy for Women Entrepreneurs"](#)
The Marketplace Literacy Community Trust, an NGO in India, conducts training activities for women using their video-based marketplace literacy approach. In providing participants a better understanding of markets and value chains, the trainings also promote sustainable postharvest technologies and practices.
- [Meeting on zero hunger initiative for West Africa holds in Accra](#)



Follo

w the conversation at
#postharvest

Issue Spotlight

World Bank Names Postharvest Loss as Key Issue

In its quarterly publication, *Food Price Watch*, the World Bank highlighted issues of food loss and food waste in an article titled, "[Food Loss and Food Waste a Barrier to Poverty Reduction](#)".

The President of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, is featured in a [video interview](#) stating,

"The amount of food wasted and lost globally is shameful. Millions of people around the world go to bed hungry every night, and yet millions of tons of food end up in trash cans or spoiled on the way to market. We have to tackle this problem in every

The launch of the West Africa Zero Hunger Initiative aims to eradicate hunger and introduce a new approach to the governance of agricultural, food, and nutrition issues throughout the region. The initiative began with a workshop that brought stakeholders together to present the nature of the initiative.

- [New initiatives increase access to data to promote food security](#)
Feed the Future and the Open Data Policy are working together to make government data more accessible to the public. A virtual portal titled Food, Agriculture, and Rural Community aims to pursue investment and policy strategies related to agricultural production and global food security by providing data on such issues.
- [South-South Cooperation improves food security in Ethiopia](#)
A training program created by the South-South Cooperation strives to reduce rural poverty and ensure food security in four regions of Ethiopia. The hands-on training focuses on crop protection, irrigation, and postharvest and processing technologies.
- [Maize and cassava identified as West Africa's food security pillars](#)
A recent study released by the FAO and IFAD has identified maize and cassava as the two main crops that can support the growth of the agro-industry in West Africa. By improving postharvest processing and marketing of these crops, West Africa can increase its share in the consumer market, experts say.
- [Canadian province keen on collaboration in grain storage, food security tech](#)
A collaboration between Saskatchewan, Canada, and Punjab, India, will explore grain storage, food security technologies, and bio-sciences through a university exchange program. The first step of this program will be to transfer water treatment technologies to southern Punjab to prevent brackish water.

Reports

- [The Estimated Amount, Value, and Calories of Postharvest Food Losses at the Retail Level and Consumer Levels in the United States](#)
The Economic Research Service within the United States Department of Agriculture released a new report on postharvest losses in the USA, estimating that 31% of the available food supply at the retail and consumer level went uneaten in 2010.

Awareness

- [Q&A: How manufacturers can save food](#)
Bernd Jablonowski, director of Interpack, was recently interviewed by Food Manufacturing magazine on ways food manufacturers can reduce waste. By utilizing packaging that is smaller and "smart", companies can counter and monitor the severity of food losses internally.
- [Global weather extremes show food security should be major concern](#)

country in order to improve food security and to end poverty."

The article's author will host a live chat on March 4th, 2014. Read more details [here](#).

Recent extreme weather events have highlighted the importance of protecting agricultural land to ensure farmers' ability to meet the demand for future food production. A combination of legislative support of the food sector and shortening and strengthening of supply chains can give farmers the confidence to invest in ways to build resilience against unpredictable weather.

- [Holistic approach needed to achieve global food security](#)
The necessity to shift investment from producing more food to protecting food that already exists in the value chain from loss was discussed at the Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture earlier this month.
- [Six-country scan of promising postharvest innovations reveals untapped opportunities for scale](#)
The Global Knowledge Initiative conducted a global scan of current postharvest loss innovations and solutions as part of an initiative to address loss issues in Africa. The scan consisted of workshops held in various countries with over 120 participants involved in the food value chain.

Related Articles

- [USDA offers aid to PH farmers](#)
- [IYFF: Ecuador focuses on family farmers to improve domestic wheat production](#)
- [Food waste vs. food scarcity in the UK](#)
- [Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics - Asia Pacific](#)

Conferences and Symposiums

- 4 March 2014 - Online
[Live Chat: Food Price Watch - How much food do you waste?](#)
- 8-9 March 2014 - Allahabad, India
[International Seminar on Food Security on India: The Challenges Ahead](#)
- 25-28 March 2014 - Ciudad Obregon, Mexico
[Borlaug Summit on Wheat for Food Security](#)
- 8-10 April 2014 - Belfast, Northern Ireland
[2nd Food Integrity and Traceability Conference](#)
- 15-17 May 2014 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
[IFPRI 2020 Conference on Building Resilience for Food & Nutrition Security](#)
- 28 May-6 June 2014 - Lafayette, Indiana, United States
[2014 Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security](#)

- 17-19 June 2014 - Cape Town, South Africa
[International Food and Agribusiness Association World Forum](#)
- 26-28 August 2014 - Gatineau, Ottawa, Canada
[International Conference on Water, Informatics, Sustainability, and Environment](#)

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