

PHL in the News

March 14, 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

- [Food security for Indonesia should be top priority, experts warn](#)
An influx in food imports in Indonesia, especially for staple foods, is raising concerns about the country's food self-sufficiency. One potential cause includes poor infrastructure and transportation systems that cannot support the sector, which results in low participation in the market by grain farmers.
- [Under chronic stress, Niger farmers are losing ground](#)
A combination of chronic drought, land degradation, pests, and poor seeds is causing hardship among farming communities in Niger. Efforts have been made by NGOs to improve storage facilities and utilize plastic bags to protect grain against rot and vermin.
- [Achieving food security in the Near East and North Africa through reducing food losses and waste \(VIDEO\)](#)
Problems arising from food loss during production and beyond have been highlighted throughout the Near East and North Africa. Farmers state that investing in proper packaging is too costly, so they use primitive methods instead, which result in losses. There are also cultural issues concerning food waste in countries such as Sudan, where an overabundance of food is traditional at events such as weddings.

Projects

- [After years of famine, Somali farmers now supplying grain for hunger relief programs](#)
With the help of a program funded by the Austrian government along with the FAO, the grain basket of Somalia is now able to sell high-quality grain to the World Food Programme. Farmers received training on postharvest handling and storage, warehouse management, and grain grading through this program.
- [China says to boost agricultural subsidies, lift grain capacity](#)
By increasing spending on agricultural subsidies, China aims to boost food security and maintain environmental protection. The National Development and Reform Commission will devote more funding to the

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Institute Spotlight

March 2014 [Progress Report](#) Now Available

The ADM Institute publishes [quarterly reports](#) that highlight key findings and updates. This edition has several interesting stories, including:

- A **research project in China** that takes a new look at postharvest loss data

production and storage of grain and other important agricultural products.

- [Implementation of Ogun-Malaysia agreement on rice production commences](#)
An agreement between the governments of Ogun State in Nigeria and Malaysia has been made to increase food production through sustainable agricultural development. Arrangements have been made to start the cultivation of Ofada rice paddy, which will be planted and nurtured with the latest technology to minimize risks of postharvest loss.
- [Finalists of the Our Common Food ideas competition](#)
This past summer, students from around the world submitted project proposals to reduce postharvest loss and food waste. Some of these projects included mobile apps and spreadsheets to monitor and assess food wastage, as well as transporting leftover food from restaurants and bakeries within the same city.
- [New grant announcement: food system governance, food security and land use in southern Africa](#)
A Belmont Forum grant has been awarded to the Environmental Change Institute for research planning on food systems in southern Africa. A collaboration of research skills from universities in South Africa, the US, UK, and the Netherlands will be brought together by this project.
- [Semry to process 20 tonnes of rice paddies per hour with two new factories](#)
Semry, a Cameroonian company also known as the Yagoua Association for the Expansion and Modernisation of Rice Cultivation, has announced that they will soon obtain two rice paddy manufacturing plants that can process 10 tonnes of paddy per hour. Currently, the company's factory produces 70-80% of Cameroon's aggregate rice. However, most paddy was exported to neighboring Nigeria due to the lack of processing plants within the country.
- [World Bank, AfDB, UNIDO enlist support for agric transformation of SCPZ](#)
Development agencies from around the world have been enlisted to support Nigeria's Staple Crop Processing Zone. The SCPZ project is a key tool in sustaining value addition throughout processing, and in growing the rural economy through wealth creation by curbing postharvest losses.

Awareness

- [Asia and the Pacific must boost food production to meet future demand](#)
A recent conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, has shown the importance of improving food production and delivery to consumers throughout Asia and the Pacific. The FAO has launched a Save Food campaign throughout the region to promote the reduction of food loss and waste, as high as 30-50% in some areas.
- [Aflatoxins threaten east African food security](#)
A workshop in Bujumbura, Burundi, has introduced key stakeholders to arrangements of the EAC Regional Project on aflatoxins. The project is expected to improve food security and safety through aflatoxin control and prevention.
- [All eyes on \\$1tn](#)

collection

- A **measurement study** that finds combine adjustments at harvest can save Brazilian farmers thousands of dollars per day

- A **communications case study** about using blogging and social media for student study and research

- A **student report on postharvest issues** of the rice value chain in Sierra Leone

...and more.

[Read the full report for more information.](#)

The agribusiness sector of Africa provides 70% of the world's poorest population with jobs. By increasing this sector by threefold, there is speculation that Africa's exports could dominate global markets. This can be achieved by investing in infrastructure needs to boost production and decrease postharvest losses.

Opinions

- [Food system that fails poor countries needs urgent reform, says UN expert](#)
A UN expert argues that the existing food system has led to an overproduction of food in rich countries that obligates poor countries to import food. By placing a great emphasis on local food production and an overhaul of trade policies, as well as reducing postharvest losses, the food system can be reformed, De Schutter said.
 - [A world where no one goes hungry](#)
By addressing challenges such as wasting less food and sustainable production, the Millennium Development Goal of reducing hunger to 12% by 2015 can be achieved. Figures already show that hunger is declining in Asia and the Pacific, and there is optimism that public and private investments can help further.
 - [Making it work](#)
The concept of contract farming has the ability to better meet the needs of consumers by strengthening the connection between producers and consumers. With contract farming, a buyer often agrees to supply inputs to the farmer, and provide technical advice in production and postharvest handling and transportation of the product.
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Related Articles

- [Zanzibar cassava yields up](#)
 - [Before the food gets to the market](#)
 - [Waste reduction and regaining trust top food and beverage trends for 2014](#)
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Conferences and Symposiums

- 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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ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

807 S. Wright Street, Champaign, IL 61820
t: 217-333-5115 e:postharvestinstitute@illinois.edu