



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



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October 24, 2014

[Issues of Loss](#) | [Projects](#) | [Technology](#) | [Reports](#) | [Awareness](#) | [Opinions](#) | [Related Articles](#) | [Conferences & Symposiums](#)

Key Articles



Eliminating aflatoxin goal of Kenya program

AflaSTOP, a project from USAID, aims to standardize grain storage in order to prevent aflatoxin contamination of staple crops in Kenya



Release of Community of Practice on Food Loss Reduction (CoP)

The FAO, IFAD, and WFP have joined together to create an interactive website designed at facilitating information sharing on the reduction of food losses

News

Issues of Loss

Farmer seeks govt support to improve storage facilities *Leadership*

With government-owned grain storage facilities currently unused, many farmers are urging the government of Nigeria to privatize or lease the grain silos. Gaining access to the additional storage for grains, such as maize, millet, and guinea corn, would drastically reduce postharvest losses throughout the supply chain.

World Trade Organization DG Roberto Azevedo senses an inclination to solve food security issue *The Economic Times*

Director General of the World Trade Organization, Roberto Azevedo, has stated that he believes the Trade Facilitation Agreement will pass in the near term. However, India has stated that they will not ratify the agreement until a resolution has been reached regarding public stock holding of grains. Public stocks of food grain help ensure food security in India, a nation with high rates of hunger and malnutrition.

Ebola wrecking havoc on West African agriculture *Agriculture.com*

As the spread and threat of Ebola have continued in West Africa, around half of farmers have abandoned their farms. In addition, poor infrastructure in the region has made transportation of agricultural products difficult. The combination of these issues has resulted in devastating postharvest losses of staple crops, putting pressure on food security for the region.

Record US corn harvest a pile of troubles for grain handlers *Business Recorder*

Record crop production in US growing regions is placing pressure on postharvest grain handling. An estimated 20 billion bushels of new crop will force grain storage facilities to capacity. The overflow of grain poses a serious threat as postharvest losses are expected due to slow movement and improper storage of grains.

Vomitoxin present in North Dakota *The Pierce County Tribune*

Wheat farmers in the Northern Midwest region of the US are concerned about vomitoxin, a toxin that affects wheat and barley crops that are infected by the fungus, scab. Many fields affected by vomitoxin will lose most if not all of the crop in the postharvest phase. Due to the toxin, some fields in North Dakota have been burned and others will have to be destroyed once harvested.

US-led raids hit grain silos in Syria, kill workers *Reuters*

US airstrikes have hit grain storage facilities in Syria, posing food security issues for the Syrian population. The violence in the region will lead to losses of harvested grains as more grain silos are targeted and production stalls due to the instability in the region.

Projects

Postharvest facility improves income of DavNor rice farmers *Sun Star*

With funds from a regional government office of the Philippines province, Davao del Norte, a local rice farmers association established a fully accessorized rice mill to improve postharvest operations at the community level. The new facilities has helped reduce postharvest losses and increase farmers incomes.

Tanzania: African govts advised to invest in small scale farmers *All Africa*

The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) has urged African governments to invest in small scale agricultural production to improve productivity. Involving small scale farmers in development could cut postharvest losses, while implementing sustainable farming practices.

Poor storage infrastructure *Dawn*

The provinces of Punjab and Sindh in Pakistan will construct 22 modern silos to address current storage limitations. The lack of adequate storage for grains in Pakistan has historically caused high postharvest losses and limitations on the export market. In partnership with the International Finance Corporation, the government of Pakistan hopes to eradicate postharvest losses due to poor storage facilities.

Imperative to cut postharvest losses *The Independent*

Nearly 50 percent of crops in Bangladesh are damaged or lost after harvest due to limited technology and poor storage. The institution of a cold chain network by Golden Harvest Agro Industries Ltd in Bangladesh allows for the preservation of crops and the reduction of postharvest losses. The project funded by USAID will work to create a streamlined supply chain with minimal losses.

Technology

Saving harvests: combating pests and food spoilage (Video) *Duetsche Welle*

Researchers from the University of Kassel in Germany have been working on postharvest solutions for grain pest issues. They are developing an acoustic sensor that helps to detect weevil in rice granaries. They are also looking at what optimal storage conditions can lead to less contamination from pests and moisture. The researchers from Kassel hope to implement their technology in Africa.

New low cost SuperGrainbag Farm provides smallholder farmers a safe way to store their grain *Sys-Con Media*

A new hermetic storage bag designed to reduce postharvest losses stemming from infestation of grain will become available on October 24th. The bag, designed mainly for smallholder farmer use, will prevent moisture contamination, stop aflatoxin growth, and pest infestation. With proper storage, smallholder farmers can preserve their grain for up to a year and ensure reduction of losses postharvest.

Grain storage bags could be solution for some farmers *Ag Weekly*

A record US crop has pushed traditional storage capacity to the limit. Farmers must implement alternative storage options to prevent grain from rotting and spoiling. A collapsible, soft grain storage unit creates temporary storage for grains, which prevents postharvest losses that would occur without proper storage infrastructure.

Reports

Pre- and postharvest factors affecting sorghum production among smallholder farming communities *IJAAR*

Sorghum surveys were conducted for 95 smallholder farmers in six counties of Kenya to determine the productivity of sorghum. Food insecurity remains constant in these regions despite having the high potential for sorghum production. According to the report, postharvest drying practices are essential for productive sorghum harvests, and should be implemented to improve food security conditions.

Awareness

Here's why we haven't figured out how to feed billions more people *National Geographic*

An increasing population creates an increasing need for agricultural advancement. However, agricultural advancement and research have stalled recently due to waning public support. An article in the National Geographic reports that educating farmers on harvesting practices, strategies, and cooperation will improve harvest yields and minimize losses throughout the farming process.

Opinions

Planting the seeds for greater African harvests *Huffington Post*

Africa accounts for only 6% of investments in agricultural R&D that total \$40 billion. Ramadhani Noor, Research Associate at Harvard School of Public Health, believes Africa has the potential to feed a growing global population by 2050 through sustainable and innovative farming practices. Noor advocates for the diversification of crops in order to provide proper nutrition, not just reliance on staple crop production.

Related Articles

- **How to tackle food waste: the global consumption conundrum**
- **New bio label could reduce food waste**
- **5 things we can do to better ensure food security**
- **The science behind food processing**
- **9 innovations to slash food loss**
- **Expert highlights role of fish in food security**

Conferences & Symposiums

- 27 October - 1 November 2014 - Bangkok, Thailand
4th International Rice Congress (IRC2014)
- 29 - 30 October 2014 - San Diego, California, USA
2nd International Conference on Sustainable Environment and Agriculture (ICSEA 2014)
- 30 October 2014 - Washington, DC, USA
Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture and Food Security: Implications for Developing Climate Resilient Agriculture Programs
- 1 - 2 November 2014 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
International Conference on Economics, Energy, Environment and Agricultural Sciences
- 6 November 2014 - Washington, DC, USA
Experiences with Managing Consortia: Aligning Organizations; Improving Impact
- 19 - 21 November 2014 - Rome, Italy
ICN2: Second International Conference on Nutrition
- 8 - 9 December 2014 - Bali, Indonesia
International Conference on Agriculture, Biology and Environmental Sciences (ICABES'14)
- 3 - 6 August 2015 - Manhattan, Kansas, USA
International Food Security Symposium

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