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Prevention of Postharvest Loss  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



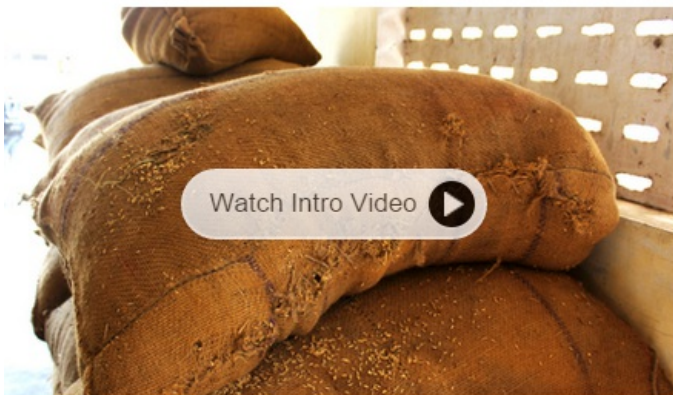
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## Key Articles



### FREE online course on fundamentals of PHL

On February 2 the ADM Institute will offer a 4-week course on key concepts, technologies, solutions, and actors in global postharvest loss prevention. Registration now open on [Coursera](#).



**Agric ministry moves to enhance postharvest handling to reduce losses**

The Postharvest and Agribusiness Support Project of Rwanda aims to improve postharvest skills of farmers in staple crops with a goal of reducing losses to 5 percent in 2017



### **China to boost grain stockpiles**

To assure food security, China will increase and improve its grain storage with the construction of new grain storage facilities

## **News**

### **Issues of Loss**

#### **Ebola worsens food crisis in West Africa** *SciDev.Net*

The Ebola disease has caused food security concerns as farmers have abandoned their fields and border closures have impacted transportation of crops. More than 1.5 million people in Western Africa could become food insecure because of the disease. Restricting transportation has caused postharvest losses of crops that cannot be transported to market.

### **Projects**



### **Cambodia seeks \$300 million loan from China to develop rice warehouses** *Oryza*

To improve rice storage quality and safety, Cambodia plans to construct 10 warehouses throughout the country. With funding from China, the project would ensure proper storage of 1.2 million tons of rice. The proposed project is currently waiting for approval from China.

### **Uganda in warehouse bids** *East African Business Week*

Currently, Uganda loses \$62 billion because of poor postharvest conditions. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives is in the process of licensing nine storage facilities across the country. The private sector-operated warehouses will allow for increased and improved storage for farmers in Uganda.

### **A global perspective on agriculture** *Dalhousie University News*

An ongoing \$3 million project, Postharvest Management to Improve Livelihoods (PHMIL), is working to improve postharvest practices to reduce losses in Ethiopia. Dalhousie University has partnered with Jimma University in Ethiopia to train Ethiopian farmers on postharvest practices. In addition, the PHMIL project has established a gender-balance Postharvest Management department within Jimma University to help facilitate development.

## **Technology**

### **GrainPro launches GrainSafe Mini, new ultra hermetic storage and transport solutions** *PRLOG*

GrainPro Inc. has released a line of new grain storage bags with direct use for smallholder farmers. The GrainSafe Mini has a capacity of 250 kg of maize or 220 kg of paddy. This bag, with an inner liner of polyethylene and an outer woven layer, has the ability to prevent insect contamination of stored crops. In addition to the GrainSafe Mini, GrainPro has launched three storage options for temporary and bulk storage.

### **ISU students attempt to 'uproot the status quo'** *Iowa State Daily*

Five students from Iowa State University have designed a personal, transportable food dehydrator with applicability in rural Africa. The dehydrator, KinoSol, is entirely solar powered enabling it to be used by smallholder farmers in Africa to help reduce postharvest losses. The team behind KinoSol will compete in the 2015 Thought for Food Challenge with a chance to win \$10,000 towards their research.

## **Reports**

## **Addressing postharvest losses in cassava value chains** *CGIAR*

According to a report that analyzes postharvest handling of cassava, postharvest losses of the crop vary drastically from country to country. In the report, losses of cassava in Nigeria, Vietnam, Ghana, and Thailand were analyzed. The results were varied with losses occurring at different stages of cultivation, production, and processing. The report finds that with varied stages and reasons for postharvest losses, varied, "tailor-made" solutions must be applied.

## **Awareness**

### **Putting more food on Africa's table--with a little help from science and other clever things** *Mail & Guardian Africa*

Even though agricultural productivity has increased globally, productivity growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is not sufficient since only 13% of total demand will be met in 2050 at today's production rate. Several measures have proven to be effective for increased production like policy introduction and increased uses of fertilizer. To offset production increases, innovative post-harvest storage technologies must also be introduced.

### **Postharvest food losses in Africa (Radio)** *Iono Broadcasting*

In a radio broadcast from Agro Africa, postharvest losses and their affects on smallholder farmers are discussed. South Africa's goal of halving poverty by the year 2025 is directly tied to reducing food losses and improving food security. The radio broadcast addresses reasons behind high postharvest losses as well as opinions from experts in the field of postharvest technologies.

## **Opinions**

### **Why we must invest in local food storage in sub-Saharan Africa** *The Guardian*

According to an article written by analysts for Rabobank, grain storage in developing nations must improve to reduce postharvest losses. The authors argue that small-scale farmers should use sealed bags and small plastic or metal silos for grain storage. In addition, farmer collectives and traders should construct large-scale, centrally located storage facilities. In order to achieve these three necessities, large private sector investments along with collaboration will be needed.

### **Focus on postharvest pest control too, experts say** *Times of India*

According to K Alagusundaram, the deputy director general of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), postharvest entomology should be given a high priority in the fight against postharvest losses. Speaking at the International Conference on Innovative Insect Management Approaches for Sustainable Agro Eco-system in India, Alagusundaram urged for the biological control of pests during storage to help reduce postharvest losses.

### **Get ready for future crisis in food production in Southeast Asia** *The Jakarta Post*

Climate change and weather disasters in Southeast Asia have caused severe crop losses over the past decade. According to research from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, climate change may cause a food production crisis. The authors argue that adaptation to climate change is paramount to avoiding food production issues. As critical as production, postharvest technology must not be overlooked, and the scope of adaptation policies should be broadened.

## Related Articles

- **New crop storage means less harvest loss [of fruits and vegetables]**
- **Food waste is a serious problem in the U.S.**
- **Kenya: Cane buying centers to reduce postharvest losses**
- **Wastage: FPCCI calls for reduction in [horticulture] postharvest losses**
- **Wasted food has multiple consequences for people and the planet**

## Conferences & Symposiums

- 10 February 2015 - Urbana, IL, USA  
**Food Systems for Food Security Symposium**
- 12 February 2015 - Fort Wayne, IN, USA  
**On-Farm Food Safety, Postharvest Handling & Wholesale Marketing Training Workshop**
- 13 - 15 March 2015 - Bangkok, Thailand  
**Rural Development Conference 2015**
- 16 - 18 March 2015 - Montpellier, France  
**3rd Global Science Conference: Climate Smart Agriculture 2015**
- 7 - 8 April 2015 - Phuket, Thailand  
**International Conference on Agricultural, Ecological and Medical Sciences (AEMS-2015)**
- 16 April 2015 - Washington, DC, USA  
**Global Food Security Symposium 2015 - Healthy Food for a Healthy World: Leveraging Agriculture and Food to Improve Global Nutrition**
- 26 - 28 May 2015 - Livingstone, Zambia  
**1st African Symposium on Mycotoxicology**
- 7 - 11 June 2015 - Bari, Italy  
**International Symposium on Postharvest Pathology: Using Science to Increase Food Availability**
- 14 - 17 June 2015 - Montego Bay, Jamaica  
**Harvest the Future International Symposium: Innovations in Climate-Smart Agriculture for Small-Scale Producers**
- 3 - 6 August 2015 - Manhattan, Kansas, USA  
**International Grain Quality and Food Security Conference**
- 4 - 7 October 2015 - Rome, Italy  
**First International Congress on Postharvest Loss Prevention**
- 11- 14 October 2015 - Ithica, New York  
**2nd International Conference on Global Food Security**

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