



ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



PHL in the News

June 28, 2013

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



Issues of Loss

- [India Food Security Rots in Storage](#)



Photo Credit: Manipadma Jena/IPS News Agency

A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India finds that 13% of India's GDP is wasted in the food chain annually, perpetuated in large part by a 40% shortage of storage. The coming of monsoon season brings heavy rains and flash flooding, meaning issues for unstored grain.

[Succour for crop loss in 15 days](#)

Officials assess loss damage on mandi sites to determine how much compensation will be distributed to farmers whose open-lying paddy crop was destroyed by the weather. Many mandis lack basic shed coverage.

[Inadequate storage facilities lead to wastage of grains](#)

The paradox of a Food Security Bill focused on the availability and distribution of cereal grains, while grain rots due to lack of proper storage, draws many critiques of the Indian government's management of national food security.

[Wheat worth Rs 45 crore rotten at FCI's godowns in first monsoon month](#)

Farmers are angry over the lack of storage for the just-beginning monsoon season as the Food Security bill remains pending, and bumper stocks pile up in government godowns.

Resource Spotlight

[Photo SlideShow: Haryana's Food Processors](#)

Indian storage issues are well-known in the postharvest loss community. A severe lack of storage, reported as a 40% shortage in the recent government audit, meets the heavy rains and flooding of monsoon season, and problems arise. Grain harvests lying in the open have little chance against the deluge, inviting pests and excessive moisture that destroy quality and minimize utility.

Inclement weather is one factor the storage bottleneck is not able to properly manage, but why the bottleneck in the first place? A visually descriptive photo slideshow (above) by [Circle of Blue](#), a collaborative journalism organization focused on world resource issues, offers an inside perspective as to why

[India to consider allowing extra wheat exports on Friday](#)

As procured stocks reach 44 million tonnes as of June 1, India is considering adding two million more tonnes of wheat to its tender scheme of 4.5 million tonnes, of which nearly all has been released.

bottlenecks occur as a result of public policy, labor, and energy factors.

- [Farmers lose in rice review \(Thailand\)](#)

Major losses in the government's flagship pledging program led officials to slash the pledging price of unmilled white rice by 20%, set a limit on household pledge amounts, and cap the total amount of paddy to be bought each year at 15 million tonnes. Many say modifications aren't enough to curb corruption among millers and processors that leave farmers at a loss.

SEE ALSO: [Thai rice pledging, moisture content, and corruption](#)

Reports

- [Growth in crop yields inadequate to feed the world by 2050 - research](#)

University of Minnesota, United States, researchers say crop yields are far below targets for 2050, after analyzing 2.5 million agricultural statistics. Looking at maize, rice, wheat, and soybeans, they found yield improvement grew between 0.9% to 1.6%, far slower than the 2.4% necessary to meet calorie demands. ([Report](#))

Projects

- [Agro-processing complex comes up at Moga \(India\)](#)

The Head of Punjab Agricultural University's Department of Processing and Food Engineering spoke on the importance of reducing postharvest losses at the inaugural ceremony of a new village processing plant. The university has provided technical guidance and support for over 250 agro-processing plants across the state.

- [ICAR seeks funds to set up rice mill for Goa tribal farmers \(India\)](#)

The Indian Council for Agricultural Research's Goa chapter is pursuing the establishment of a rice mill in south Goa under their tribal sub-plan. The mill would enable farmers to earn twice as much per kilogram of rice in a fraction of the time.

- [Curbing maize postharvest losses continues](#)

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) hosted a stakeholder workshop under their 'Effective Grain Storage for Sustainable Livelihoods of African Farmers Project', with objectives to provide a forum for ideas, raise awareness, share technology, consult actors on adoption, and engage in policy dialogue around postharvest loss.

Awareness

- [Obsolete policies 'fanning Africa's hunger'](#)

A FAO official says many African nations still lack agricultural policies founded in research, causing them to lag behind in food security matters. Experts call for a systematic mechanism for monitoring policy across the continent, and emphasize the need to focus more on smallholder farmers and their access to inputs, infrastructure, and markets.

- [BRAC lists post-2015 priorities](#)

The world's largest NGO, BRAC, surveyed its network on post-2015 development priorities, identifying an agenda similar to that of the UN High-Level Panel. Uniquely listed in BRAC's top eight priorities, however, is the need for improved transportation infrastructure.

Opinions

- [Who really benefited from the rice scheme?](#)

Thailand's rice scheme is under scrutiny after being found to incur major losses in its first year. Public officials, bureaucrats, millers, processors, and other middlemen in the agro-processing sector are targeted as corrupt, at

the expense of farmers.

Related Articles

- [Africa will lose 40% of its maize-growing land to drought & heat by 2030](#)
- [Commentary - Let a hundred flowers bloom: promoting a new era of innovation for agricultural development](#)
- [Karen Brooks on generating knowledge to improve policies, institutions, and markets](#)

Conferences and Symposiums

- 20-21 August 2013 - Nairobi, Kenya
[1st African Food Security Conference](#)
- 10-14 September 2013 - Bari, Italy
[1st Inter-Regional Conference on Land and Water Challenges](#)
- 30 September - Tokyo, Japan
[International Conference on Economic and Social Sustainability 2013](#)
- 9-12 October 2013 - Istanbul, Turkey
[Food Engineering Conference](#)
- 21-24 October 2013 - Yaounde, Cameroon
[3rd Africa Rice Congress](#)
- 8-10 April 2014 - Belfast, Northern Ireland
[2nd Food Integrity and Traceability Conference](#)

For more information and resources, visit the ADM Institute's [web site](#), fan us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#) at @PHL_Institute.

To feature important stories in PHL in the News, please send relevant media, press releases, articles, reports, and other information to postharvestinstitute@illinois.edu.

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

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