

PHL in the News

December 20, 2013

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.

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

Issues of Loss

- [CRR farmers raise concern over postharvest loss](#)
The lack of resources such as threshing machines, drying floors, and tractors contribute to postharvest losses of rice in the Central River Region of Gambia. Even though yields have increased with the use of fertilizers, there is worry that postharvest losses will negatively impact this accomplishment.
- [Stakeholders call for rice council to draft policies](#)
Stakeholders in Abuja, Nigeria, have requested a council be formed to regulate policies involving the country's rice industry in hopes of becoming more competitive. By increasing research and development in production and supply chain efficiency, Nigeria will be able to boost production and export rice to the world market.
- [Hooda seeks relaxation in norms for milled rice from Centre](#)
Due to untimely rainfalls in India that damaged rice paddy, Haryana state Chief Minister Hooda has requested that the usual norms pertaining to paddy be relaxed. Some of these norms include the allowed percentages of damage and discoloration in rice.
- [India not to compromise on food security \(video\)](#)
Developed countries are pushing to limit the public stockholdings of grains for trade reasons. India has put up a strong defense, saying it will protect its stock of grains until there is a lasting solution that meets their food security needs.
- [Chin State's food insecurity has many causes](#)
Every fifty years, the state of Chin, Myanmar, faces a massive rat infestation due to the fruit produced by bamboo forests. Rats are a seasonal problem in Chin, and are contributing to food insecurity by eating farmers' crops.
- [Science's role in growing diverse, nutritious food](#)
Science is identified as a means to achieve global food security. This includes science that addresses needs beyond the production phase of agriculture, such as the postharvest stages. Experts say science must reach farmers, impact policy, and develop new tools and technologies to use along the entire supply chain.

Projects

- [SAVE FOOD Initiative welcomes its 100th industry partner](#)
Nestle is the newest company to join the SAVE FOOD Initiative, which aims to

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Institute Spotlight

New [Blog Post](#):

Illinois students gear up to impact global food security

Credit: ADM Institute/Grace Kenney

The University of Illinois prepares students to address challenges of the 21st century. An important place to start is figuring out how the world will feed more with less, and without destroying the planet.

On January 5, fifteen students from the College of Business will travel to

fight global food loss and waste. By creating alliances and collaborating with industry and public partnerships, SAVE FOOD aims to identify specific ways to reduce international food loss and waste.

- [Kenya's smallholder farmers use grain stores to raise bank loans](#)
The Eastern Africa Grain Council and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa started a new program that allows Kenyan farmers to sell their produce in certified warehouses and obtain credit from banks to avoid brokers. In the past, brokers have purchased produce for a very low price, but sold inputs back to farmers at very high prices.
- [Food Corporation starts tendering to build modern silos](#)
A program to increase India's food grain storage capacity includes plans to construct 1.75 million tonnes of modern silos. The steel silos will be built in 36 locations across 9 states, and will have access to railways.
- [NAFDAC, IITA inaugurate awareness of aflatoxin in Nigeria](#)
The government of Nigeria, in collaboration with the Institute of Tropical Agriculture, hosted a workshop in south-eastern Nigeria to educate consumers, farmers, and the industrial sector on the risks and harmful effects of aflatoxins in food and feed. The workshop aimed to highlight the extent of aflatoxin contamination and the negative economic impacts.
- [Postharvest losses: making Nigerian farmers poorer](#)
Despite the fact that postharvest loss has impoverished Nigerian farmers for years, the issue has not attracted much attention. The Ministry of Agriculture has now agreed to install temperature-controlled solar-powered warehouses to reduce losses.
- [Tramline project benefits almost 26,000](#)
The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization started a project called the Agricultural Tramline System, which has so far made a positive impact on 26,000 people. Previously, the transport of farm produce was done by mules or horses, which was inefficient, expensive, and resulted in high postharvest losses.
- [Companies eye market for farm solutions](#)
Due to poor infrastructure contributing to postharvest losses, agri-processing companies in India have taken an interest in providing farmers with end-to-end solutions, such as efficient handling and direct marketing. There are hopes that better technology will be provided by these companies, and that farmers will receive higher wages.

India to study postharvest losses in agricultural supply chains.

As they study postharvest stages such as drying, storage, transport, and others, the students are set to gain invaluable insights on efforts to save food that is already produced.

[Read more.](#)

Students will be writing blog articles throughout their trip which will be published on [Preventing Postharvest Loss](#).

Follow their story at [#PHLstudents](#).

Technology

- [From data to decisions: using data to improve public access and knowledge](#)
In support of the USDA's Open Data Policy, a new food, agriculture, and rural virtual community has been formed on Data.gov. The start of this virtual community will provide better access to databases and tools by a variety of people.
- [Crowdsourcing app fights food loss in Africa](#)
An app called Cheetah has been designed by the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation at the University of Twente, Netherlands, to reduce food waste. The app provides transporters, growers, and traders of crops with information that can help them find fast, efficient routes.
- [CGIAR Consortium: now officially 'open access'](#)

The CGIAR Open Access and Data Management Policy aims to improve the efficiency, efficacy, and impact of its research. Online mapping from this data can help scientists set priorities for interventions to improve production of agricultural products.

Reports

- [FAO monthly news report on grains released](#)
FAO releases monthly reports covering ongoing global and regional trends in grain prices and policies. This report in particular includes Indian wheat export levels, WTO food stockholding negotiations, and information on the corn harvest in the Philippines.
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Awareness

- [Nigeria records over 40% postharvest losses](#)
The National Coordinator of the Sustainable Food Security (SUFOS) in Nigeria has revealed that the country suffers from 40% postharvest loss, which has led to an unprecedented hike in food imports. However, the food imports Nigeria relies on is far below the global standard; rice that Nigeria imports has already been stored for about fifteen years.
 - [Experts worried over postharvest losses](#)
In Ghana, a radio program called "Focus" has shed light on the issue of postharvest losses in the country. The inadequate supply of input and resource materials in the agricultural sector were indicated as causes of postharvest loss. Of particular concern were the factors of unfair trade practices, the impact of PHL on revenue generation, and access to processing facilities.
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Opinions

- [Wastage of food globally has assumed disturbing proportions](#)
In India, nearly Rs133 billion worth of food is wasted every year. In this article, the opportunities afforded by focusing on the issues in the supply chain were highlighted, and links were made to issues such as rising prices, farmer concerns, poverty, and food subsidy schemes.
 - [Help prevent postharvest losses](#)
The Birim Central Municipal Chief Executive, Ghana, has stressed the need to engage stakeholders in the food chain to reduce postharvest losses. Farmers are being urged to package their food crops in well-ventilated containers to reduce losses.
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Related Articles

- [Postharvest loss in foodgrains at 6%: ICAR](#)
- [Talking about what it means to be climate smart](#)
- [Key messages and recommendations from the Global Landscapes Forum for](#)

[UNFCCC negotiations and sustainable development goals](#)

- [Post-harvest engineer](#)
- [GGBL to the rescue of Sunyani cassava farmers](#)

Conferences and Symposiums

- 14-15 January 2014 - Imo, Nigeria
[Tenth International Conference on Sustainable Development](#)
- 13 February 2014 - London, England
[Feed the World 2014](#)
- 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](#)
- 28 May-6 June 2014 - Lafayette, Indiana, United States
[2014 Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security](#)

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