



ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



PHL in the News

June 14, 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

- 22,000 quintals of [wheat are found to be rotting](#) in Haryana, India, where adequate storage is not available. The grain has been declared unfit for human consumption, leading many to blame the government procurement process.
- A large scale fire burned through a grain storage center in northeastern China, [destroying 1,000 tonnes of grain](#).



Reports

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) released a working paper titled 'Reducing Food Loss and Waste' on June 5th, World Environment Day. The report describes how reducing food loss and food waste contributes to global environmental sustainability goals, as well as recommends 5 strategies for reducing loss. The first recommendation is to develop a food loss and waste measurement protocol. ([Report](#), [Press Release](#), [Blog](#))
- The [Natural Resources Institute \(NRI\)](#) published two reports on reducing postharvest losses of cereal grains, focusing on the need to tackle losses in Sub-Saharan Africa and the effects of climate change on loss.
- The Irrigated Rice Research Consortium (IRRC) published a report, 'A Meta-Impact Assessment of the IRRC', which analyzed the effects of its international research programs. The report found that research investment delivered a more than six fold return, bringing more than \$70 million in benefits to four Asian countries with a \$12 million investment. ([Press Release](#), [Report](#))
- A government [study of postharvest losses in Germany](#) finds the country has lost 3.3% of wheat, or about 820,000 tonnes, per year over the last three years. The researchers recommended targeted investments in storage systems, and more funding for R&D, both nationally and internationally.
- A government study in Bangladesh finds that [farmers lose up to 7% of paddy each year](#), valued at \$30 million, due to traditional harvesting techniques, which are often delayed.

'Our Common Food' Ideas Competition

Submit ideas for reducing postharvest losses, win project development funding

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation has announced a competition to gather innovative ideas on how to fight food waste in Switzerland and reduce postharvest losses in developing countries. The competition is supported by a variety of international agriculture and international development related institutions, including the ETH Zurich World Food System Center, Syngenta Crop Protection AG, and the Swiss National FAO Committee. Winners will receive funding, information, access to networks, and other means of support for project development. Applicants must currently be enrolled as a university student, or have completed

Technology

- An FAO crop officer promoted the [use of metal silos](#) to prevent grain loss

during his remarks given in Kenya on World Environment Day.

their studies within the last two years, and be from either Switzerland or a developing country.

Submissions are due August 30, 2013. See [competition announcement](#) for detailed information, application guidelines, and eligibility criteria.

Projects

- INDIA: A group of agriculture professionals from Africa took part in a study in India to gain insights on the role of farm [mechanization in sustainable intensification](#). Participants were exposed to various technologies, including gender-friendly equipment for postharvest operations. Four international research organizations coordinated the tour.
- INDIA: The Maharashtra state government has chosen three private companies to start a [value chain development program](#) in 13 districts of the state to support maize production.
- INDIA: Haryana is [negotiating an agreement](#) with Argentina and Brazil to build godowns, or warehouses, in rural areas.
- PHILIPPINES: The Department of Agriculture program to curb rice losses called, '[University-on-the-Air on Rice Postharvest and Mechanization](#)', recently graduated at least 375 farmers. The use of radio allows farmers to participate without spending money on transportation. The government expects the program to cut losses by a minimum of 5%.
- BRAZIL: As part of its \$64 billion plan to support agriculture, Brazil will allocate [\\$12 billion to increase storage capacity](#). The program will fund low-interest loans for private companies. Conab, a state-owned food distributor, will additionally [receive \\$250 million to increase storage](#).
- KENYA: A county [government will buy maize](#) from farmers to reduce risks of exploitation from middlemen, as well as to control presence of aflatoxin that is frequently found in home-stored grain.

Awareness and Media

- The three Rome-based UN agency heads called for food security and nutrition to be the center focus of the international development agenda for Africa. The leaders stressed the importance of focusing investments and initiatives on [smallholder farmers and rural development](#), and especially for women and girls.
- International NGO focused on poverty, Oxfam, warns that the [price of staple grains will more than double](#) in the next 20 years, increasing by as much as 180% by 2030 for some crops such as maize. Climate change will cause much of the increase, followed by population, energy, and resource demands, Oxfam says.
- The FAO reports that though rising, [food prices this year are not peaking](#), much unlike in 2008 and 2011 when high volatility led to unrest and rioting. FAO says the lack of financial speculators is helping to moderate prices.

Opinions

- Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), writes that ['tackling postharvest losses is not rocket science'](#), but does require the coordinated effort of many actors. The WFP addresses postharvest loss under its 'Purchase for Progress' pilot capacity-building and training program, currently working in 20 countries.

Related Articles

- [Food waste hinders China's sustainable development](#)
- [VIDEO: WASTE, the relationship between food waste and resource waste](#)
- [South Africa wastes 10 million tons of food a year](#)
- [VIDEO: Global food corporation, TESCO, aims to play leading role in reducing waste](#)
- [China's 'Clean Your Plate Campaign' seeing progress in reducing food waste](#)

- [Korea's new food waste rule raises concerns](#)

Conferences and Symposiums

- 17-19 June 2013 - Bonn, Germany
The Future of Growth: Economic Values and the Media Workshop -
[The Fight Against Food Waste: Everybody's Responsibility from Farm to Fork](#)
- 18-19 June 2013 - Brussels, Belgium
[NCT Food Supply Chain Security: A European Forum](#)
- 18-20 June 2013 - Atlanta, United States
[The Road to 2050: The Talent Factor — Meeting Future Global Needs of Food and Agriculture](#)
- 21-23 June 2013 - Bangkok, Thailand
[Sustainable Development Conference 2013](#)
- 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](#)

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