

PHL in the News

October 4, 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.

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Issues of Loss

- [Food Corporation of India is prepared to implement food security law: KV Thomas](#)
Indian Union Minister of for Food and Public Distribution, KV Thomas, reviewed the operations of the FCI, and found it prepared to implement the Food Security Law. According to Thomas, the FCI has taken necessary steps to expand capacity and modernize storage facilities over the past years, and there is a greater than sufficient supply of food grains currently in stock.
 - [Lack of infrastructure blamed for huge postharvest loss](#)
A government official addressed Karnataka, India state Chamber of Commerce about the problem of postharvest losses in the country. The official criticized the government's unfulfilled promise of bringing foreign direct investment in retail trade to the agriculture sector as a means to provide infrastructure, such as improved warehousing.
 - [Farmers running out of storage room for 2013 bumper crop](#)
Farmers in Saskatchewan, Canada are experiencing record yields of cereal and oilseed crops. At 85% of the harvest period, grain bins are nearly full. Many farmers who own grain bags are using those to store surplus crops, but some have been forced to resort to on-ground storage.
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Projects

- [Enhancing food safety through agriculture: science forum examines different approaches](#)
The CGIAR Science Forum 2013, 'Nutrition and Health Outcomes: Targets for Agricultural Research', featured a parallel session on food safety. Participants discussed the impact of aflatoxin contamination of grain and other crops on food safety and market access, and assessed 5 mitigation approaches.
- [Rajasthan to 2.3 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains for food schemes](#)
Rajasthan State and Union officials met to agree on the state's readiness to implement the Food Security Act. Rajasthan will receive 232,000 metric tons of storage capacity, and agreed to update its TPDS system. The question of who will cover other implementation costs such as handling of foodgrains,

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Attention Students!

\$100K National Agricultural Innovation Prize Launched

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation and the University of Wisconsin-Madison have launched the 2014 Agricultural Innovation Prize.

The contest encourages student teams to develop innovative plans to address social and agricultural challenges

transportation, and intermediary storage remains in contention between states and the Union government.

- [New initiative to reduce postharvest losses](#)
In combination with efforts to increase production in Burkina Faso, the World Food Programme has launched an initiative to curb postharvest losses. The initiative will focus around a three-part farmer education program. It will also include a comparative analysis of traditional versus new storage equipment use among participating farmers.
- [Government plans to increase grain storage capacity](#)
The government of Tanzania plans to increase grain storage capacity from the current status of storing 250,000 tonnes to 450,000 tonnes of cereals to meet the country's food demand, which is rising due to population growth.
- [Small farms, big investment for food security: Syngenta to invest \\$500 million in Africa agriculture](#)
Multinational agricultural corporation, Syngenta, has committed to invest \$500 million in the agricultural sector of Africa. The investment aims to increase productivity by 50% for over 5 million farmers, and intends to reach smallholders with improvements in infrastructure, access to technology, mitigation of weather risks, and other ways.
- [Food University\(TM\) is launched at Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting](#)
As a part of a global effort to promote food security and agricultural development in Africa, the Food University initiative was launched by the ImagineAfrica Alliance and President Bill Clinton at the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting. The initiative seeks to create sustainable jobs and a skilled workforce across Africa's food value chain.

within food systems, improving the standard of living and quality of life for the world's population.

The competition is open to U.S. undergraduate and graduate students across all academic disciplines and runs through spring 2014.

Teams will compete for the chance to win \$215,000 in prize money, with a grand prize of \$100,000; **making this the largest agriculture-focused student competition in the world.**

Reports

- [Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems \(Full Report\)](#)
The Sustainable Development Solutions Network Thematic Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems released their report of technical recommendations to the post-2015 development agenda. Postharvest loss prevention is included as a key issue.
- [Global Governance and Food Security as Global Public Good](#)
The Center on International Cooperation at New York University published a report on food security as an international issue requiring collective global action. Postharvest loss reduction is cited as a compensating strategy to deal with the impact of reducing natural resources on overall production.
- [The State of the Food Insecurity in the World](#)
The FAO State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013 presents updated estimates of undernourishment and progress towards the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and World Food Summit (WFS) hunger targets.
- [Structured grain trading systems in Africa](#)
This manual describes how structured trading systems work for grains such as maize, sorghum and millet, as well as commodities such as groundnuts and soybeans, all important staple crops in Africa. Structured trading is how most

grain is traded in the developed world, and is now expanding in Africa, and this manual explains how the system works.

- [Rice, gender, and social dynamics: setting the stage for women](#)
A report by the CGIAR Research Program on Rice highlights outcomes of the program's work to break down gender barriers for women rice farmers in Asia and Africa, who undertake much of the production labor, including postharvest processes like drying and milling.
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Awareness

- [Minister Calls for R&D focus on high potential and impact resources](#)
Acting Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science, and Technology of Papua New Guinea called for a focus on research and development for high potential areas. He noted postharvest processing and preservation of primary products for value addition among those areas, in addition to overall improvement of supply and value chains linking farmers to national and international markets.
 - [Feeding Africa through agricultural innovation](#)
Nigeria has made strides in recent years to build resilience and tackle food insecurity through raising agricultural productivity and food production. According to expert academic Calestous Juma, "Innovation in mobile communication, crop insurance, post-harvest loss reduction and other risk-reducing incentives will be essential for raising agricultural productivity".
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Opinions

- [Govt, not traders, to blame for food inflation](#)
A grade trading analyst discusses the issue of hoarding and leakages along the grain supply chain, arguing that the creation of dual pricing between the FCI open market sale and the Food Security Act leads to the diversion of grains.
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Related Articles

- [Food waste: the next food revolution](#)
 - [Food security is everyone's issue](#)
 - [Global hunger down, but millions still chronically hungry](#)
 - [Harvard study finds food expiration labels are misleading](#)
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Conferences and Symposiums

- 9-12 October 2013 - Istanbul, Turkey

[Food Engineering Conference](#)

- 16-18 October 2013 - Des Moines, United States
[The Next Borlaug Century: Biotechnology, Sustainability, and Climate Volatility](#)
- 19 October 2013 - New Delhi, India
[2nd International Conference on "Agriculture, Food Technologies, and Environment - New Approaches"](#)
- 21-24 October 2013 - Yaounde, Cameroon
[3rd Africa Rice Congress](#)
- 29 October 2013 - Melbourne, Australia
[Global Food Security & Sustainable Agriculture: Australia's Role?](#)
- 4-8 November 2013 - Kigali, Rwanda
[ICT4Ag: The Digital Springboard for Inclusive Agriculture](#)
- 26-28 November 2013 - Nairobi, Kenya
[Developing Markets Together](#)
- 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](#)

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