

Seminar on China-Africa Rice Value Chain Enhancement

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Session 2: Exchange Discussion on Rice Value Chain Enhancement

Panel 3: Food Loss Reduction along Supply Chain

Day 1 (Tuesday, 08 June 2021)

Overview

Efforts to increase food production without complementary interventions for proper utilization of the food produced is a major contributor to postharvest food loss and waste

A third of all food produced globally is lost or goes to waste

- up to **30% million** of food produced in low-income countries, about **1.3 billion MT**, is lost before it leaves the farm
- It is estimated that global food wastage could feed up to **1.6 billion people** annual

In sub-Saharan African, the total quantitative food loss has been estimated to be over **100 million MT/year**

- For grains alone, the value of postharvest losses is equivalent to approximately **USD 4 billion/year** (at 2007 prices), which could meet the **annual food requirement of about 48 million people**
- The value of food loss exceeds the annual value of grain imports into Africa
- All of **this is happening while Africa remains the most food insecure continent in the world**, with approximately one in four people undernourished
- African Union Heads of State and Government have called for postharvest losses in Africa to be reduced by 50 percent by 2025 in the 2014 Malabo Declaration

WFP's approach to food loss reduction

WFP's work on food loss and waste focuses on post-harvest loss (PHL) reduction in developing countries where smallholder farmers are most affected. Currently PHL support activities are available in more than 30 countries.

WFP's solution is hermetic (airtight) storage combined with training on improved post-harvest handling. WFP works with the private sector to ensure smallholder families have the opportunity to purchase cost-efficient air- and water-tight storage, ranging from 50 Kg to 1 MT. This equipment reduces losses to almost zero by suffocating insects on their own CO₂.

Paired with training on how to better dry their grain, farmers have been able to virtually eliminate their food losses. More important than the amount saved is the 'triple impact' on their families: improved food security, increased incomes, and enhanced health and nutrition.

Challenges encountered in the past include low update of PHL equipment by farmers, limited private sector engagement and a relatively low level of awareness for governments and other agricultural value chain players. WFP is prioritising value chain analyses to identify value chain bottlenecks limiting farmers and private sector engagement as well as advocating for seed funding following the analyses to allow implementation of an improved PHL business model.



WFP's Support for Africa at the Global Level

WFP is supporting African countries' **engagement in the Food Systems Summit. WFP is proactively engaged in the Food System Summit** across action tracks, supporting national dialogues through country offices (47 in Africa), including through the dialogues around transformative solutions for consideration at the pre-summit and the summit, as well as empowering and mobilizing marginalized voices and raising awareness.

WFP plays an important role in supporting governments achieve their national development agenda for improved food systems, including in the following areas: providing e-commerce solutions that help bring markets, finance, and technology to smallholders; supporting digital transformation, including providing digital skills to enhance jobs and other income earning opportunities for youth; and advocacy for financing and responsible investment in food systems, including development and implementation of coherent policies and strategies to sustainably and efficiently increase agricultural productivity and production while reducing carbon foot print and ensuring that health or nutritious diets are not undermined.

RURAL TRANSFORMATION



SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT



WFP is also supporting the African Union's Postharvest Congress and Exhibition

For the 1st All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition (AAPHCE) from 28th – 31st March 2017, in Nairobi, Kenya WFP provided both financial and technical support in collaboration with University of Nairobi and the WFP Global Post-Harvest Knowledge & Operations Centre in Uganda. WFP helped organise a side event on the challenges and opportunities in the postharvest management sector in Africa and presented concrete plans for post-harvest food loss and waste reduction.

At the 2nd Congress, WFP contributed 15,000 USD to support member states participate in the conference. The WFP Global Post-Harvest Knowledge & Operations Centre in Uganda and the WFP Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition in Dakar co-organized a side event named "Agenda for WFP's Zero Food Loss Initiative Side Event". The purpose of which was to showcase effective strategies, technologies, practices, initiatives for post-harvest loss reduction. Furthermore, to build and strengthen linkages and partnerships for resource mobilization and other activities geared towards postharvest loss reduction.

Discussions are underway to determine WFP's engagement in the **3rd Postharvest Congress and Exhibition** which is tentatively scheduled for 14-16 September 2021.

Thank You



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