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November 14, 2014

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Key Articles



Egypt's Sisi gives go ahead for grain storage logistics hub

Egypt has begun a \$2 billion project to increase domestic storage capacity, reduce postharvest losses, and become an international grain center



Germany keen to help Bihar in postharvest technology

In an economic partnership, Germany will send postharvest and food processing experts to the Northern Indian State of Bihar to improve postharvest handling practices

News

Issues of Loss

Research shows farmers lose Shs16b every year in poor postharvest handling Daily Monitor. The largest grain handling regions of Uganda are experiencing extreme levels of postharvest losses according to a study by the Uganda Cooperative Alliance and the Uganda National Farmers' Federation. Poor storage infrastructure forces farmers in Uganda to leave grains lying on the ground leading to contamination. In addition, transportation inadequacies lead to losses through spillage and leakage.

Food losses level frightening (Ghana) Asoko Insight

In 2013, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa commissioned a study on postharvest losses of selected food crops in 11 African countries. Conducted by The Urban Association Limited, the study found that almost half of the selected crops did not make it to the consumer. Husking, shelling, drying, storage, and transportation losses were identified as major problem areas.

Projects

Animating extension: How Illinois researchers are using modern ICTs to impact society *Preventing Postharvest Loss*

A University of Illinois research team, Scientific Animations Without Borders (SAWBO), produces innovative extension videos focused on development topics, such as global health, agriculture including postharvest loss prevention, and poverty alleviation. The videos can be downloaded and viewed on cellphones, computers, and via Bluetooth, and are animated to look and sound in congruence with local conditions. They have launched a **newsletter** to share these videos with global stakeholders and actors.

WFP scaling up successful postharvest programme for smallholder farmers World Food Programme A recently completed evaluation study by the World Food Programme demonstrates how smallholder farmers supported by Purchase for Progress drastically reduced their postharvest losses, losing less than 2 percent of their harvest over three months of storage. WFP is now planning to scale up the successful initiative with a project that aims to reach 41,000 farming households in Burkina Faso and Uganda.

Cameroon loses 25% of postharvest production due to inadequate preservation infrastructure *Business in Cameroon*

High postharvest loss rates in Cameroon due to poor infrastructure have led the Consumer Products Supply Regulations Mission (MIRAP), a government body, to begin construction on agricultural preservation infrastructure. Through this project, MIRAP hopes to reduce postharvest losses to 5 percent.

FAGRO seeks to change the face of farming Ghana Web

The National Food and Agriculture Show (FAGRO) has urged Ghana to educate farmers in order to increase productivity. Alberta Nana Akyaa Akosa, General Manager of FAGRO, says agricultural productivity remains low because technology and management practices are inadequate. During the 2014 National Food and Agriculture Show, stakeholders will present agricultural technologies for market integration.

Workshop to dialogue on postharvest losses opens Ghana Web

The Economy of Ghana Network (EGN) from the University of Ghana organized a workshop on managing postharvest losses titled, "Innovating Financing in Waste and Spoilage Technologies: A Decade in Existence". Participants discussed experiences and lessons learned on loss issues along ag value chains, highlighting a lack of knowledge and information as a major barrier to improvement.

How India can help its small farmers grow World Economic Forum

A post on the World Economic Forum blog discusses the importance of public-private partnerships and other types of collaborations for reducing postharvest losses, increasing productivity, and meeting consumer demand. The Forum's New Vision for Agriculture has helped establish the Maharastra Public-Private Partnership for Integrated Agriculture Development, launching 30 value chain projects since 2011.

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Romer Labs donates mycotoxin testing strips and readers to Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Reduction of Postharvest Loss at K-State University *Grain Net*

Romer Labs has donated aflatoxin and fumonisin testing strips and readers to the Kansas State University Feed the Future Innovation Lab for the Reduction of Post-harvest Loss. The testing strips and readers will be used in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guatemala, and Ghana. Better detection of mycotoxins in staple crops can reduce postharvest losses caused by contamination.

Out of grain bins? Loftness grain bagging system could be answer Farm and Ranch Guide

A large grain crop in most of the United States has forced farmers to adapt alternative technologies. A new grain bagging equipment system allows farmers to harvest and immediately store grain while out in the field. Reducing the time grain spends between harvest and storage will reduce postharvest losses.

Reports

2014 Food Org Guide Food Tank

The James Beard Foundation and Food Tank have partnered to create a guide of United States nonprofit organizations working in the agriculture and food sector. The guide offers a wide range of organizations striving to improve the food system.

Awareness

Ghana faces food insecurity challenge Vibe Ghana

Cecilia Addae, a manager of Africa Lead, recently emphasized the need for Ghana to ensure food security through government and stakeholder participation. Addae expressed the need during her presentation, "Rebulding the African Pot", at the 2014 World Rural Women's Day which was centered on the role of women in food production, food security, nutrition, and rural enterprises.

Reducing food loss and waste to feed the world's nine billion people in 2050 Council on Foreign Relations

A group of experts recently highlighted how food loss and waste is critical to achieving global food security in a post on the Council on Foreign Relations Development Channel blog. Dan Tuttle highlights 3 high-potential solutions that are already underway as identified in an assessment commissioned by the Rockefeller Foundation, being: market-based models, expansion into emerging markets by large commercial food companies, and community investments in agro-processing solutions.

Opinions

Development of producers is the answer for food insecurity and famine in Africa All Africa

Agricultural economist Fanie Brink believes that to increase food security and reduce food loss, producers must gain access to land, capital, labor, and basic production factors. Thus, the development of African agricultural producers will allow for adoption of farming practices and knowledge to maximize overall agricultural efficiency.

'Co-ordinate to avoid postharvest loss' Zambia Daily Mail

According to the African Union Commission (AUC), coordination is vital to achieving the Malabo Declaration on halving postharvest losses by 2025. Janet Edeme, head of Rural Economy at AUC, stated that specific policy actions must be taken to reduce postharvest losses. Edeme insists that African leaders must work together to establish loss reducing policies.

Related Articles

- Low cost device helps Kenyan farmers reduce waste
- Use tech to down postharvest loss in produce: Minister
- Regreening program to restore one-sixth of Ethiopia's land
- FAO study on postharvest losses of cassava, mango and tomato
- Technologies being developed to reduce postharvest losses of vegetables and fruits
- From better seeds to beneficial insects, K-State researchers fight world hunger

Conferences & Symposiums

- 18 November 2014 Washington, DC, USA
 Agricultural Productivity, Food Security, and Trade with a Focus on Agricultural Productivity in India
- 18 20 November 2014 Online

AgExchange: Feeding the World in 2050: How Human and Institutional Capacity Development Can Support Agricultural Innovation Systems

• 19 - 21 November 2014 - Rome, Italy

ICN2: Second International Conference on Nutrition

• 1 - 12 December 2014 - Lima, Peru

UN Climate Change Conference COP20/CMP10

• 5 December 2014 - Lima, Peru

Global Landscapes Forum Youth Masterclass (Registration Closes 14 November 2014)

• 8 - 9 December 2014 - Bali, Indonesia

International Conference on Agriculture, Biology and Environmental Sciences (ICABES'14)

• 21 - 22 January 2015 - Washington, DC, USA

First Annual Food Tank Summit

 3 - 6 August 2015 - Manhattan, Kansas, USA International Food Security Symposium

• 4 - 7 October 2015 - Rome, Italy

First International Congress on Postharvest Loss Prevention

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