



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Investing in rural people



World Food
Programme

MAINSTREAMING FOOD LOSS REDUCTION INITIATIVES FOR SMALLHOLDERS IN FOOD DEFICIT AREAS

A ROME-BASED UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES
JOINT PROJECT (2014-2017)





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The **COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP) ON FOOD LOSS REDUCTION** is a web-based platform that serves as a global convener and integrates knowledge related to reducing post-harvest losses. The CoP provides a platform to facilitate linkages and sharing of information among stakeholders, relevant networks, projects and programmes. Background information found on the CoP website includes relevant news, events, online discussions, resources and links to partners. The CoP website also provides a dynamic platform that facilitates the sharing and coordination of information.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES

in sorghum, cowpea (niébé), maize, beans, rice and sunflowers supply chains

BURKINA FASO:

- ▶ Promote hermetic storage
- ▶ Raise awareness on the importance of quantitative losses and their economic value at all levels as well as their impact on food availability
- ▶ Provide training on good harvesting and post-harvest systems management
- ▶ Develop selected value chains by building stakeholder capacity to assess the feasibility and profitability of different possible solutions in their contexts and supporting microfinance and credit institutions to facilitate access to efficient equipment and facilities
- ▶ Promote advocacy for quality control of all post-harvest equipment, including polypropylene woven bags at the national level

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO:

- ▶ Provide training and build capacity: sensitization and training of extension agents, producers and other actors on
- ▶ PHLs and their prevention
- ▶ Good harvest and post-harvest management practices
- ▶ Reinforce public services in charge of training on PHM and in the monitoring and control of storage facilities
- ▶ Improve storage facilities at the farm and bulking stages
- ▶ Value chain development

UGANDA:

- ▶ Capacity building of farmers, traders and millers on improved grain handling and storage
- ▶ Promote grain marketing by promoting communal storage and marketing enterprises to improve grain market access
- ▶ Encourage household grain storage in units including storage in superbags, metal silos, plastic silos to enhance household food security
- ▶ Set up bi-laws that encourage proper drying of grain and critical observation of safety levels especially with respect to aflatoxin
- ▶ Private sector engagement to address the issue of loss reduction
- ▶ Multi-stakeholder approaches to combat post-harvest losses. Identify support from UN partners and other donor agencies to finance the strategy

ACTIVITIES AT COUNTRY LEVEL (2015-2017)

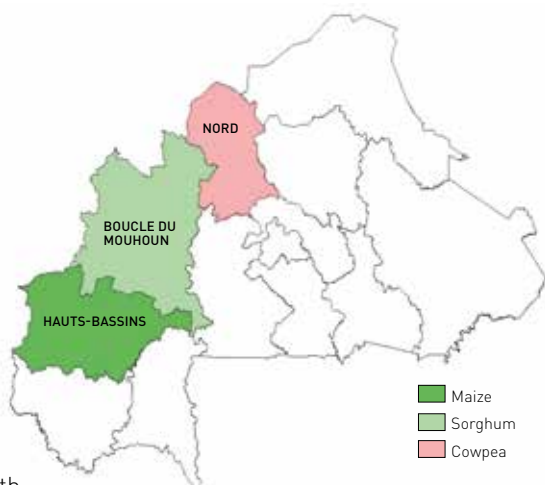
Description of regions, crops and critical loss points analysed in the three countries during the 1st Phase of the project

BURKINA FASO

location Hauts-Bassins, Boucle du Mouhoun and North

Critical loss points identified:

- ▶ **FOR SORGHUM**, harvesting, transportation of the panicles to the homestead, threshing, transport to the wholesaler and storage at the wholesaler level.
- ▶ **FOR MAIZE**, harvesting, drying, shelling, storage at the producer's warehouse, transport to the wholesaler and milling (flour and semolina).
- ▶ **FOR COWPEA** (niébé), harvesting, drying, manual threshing/ pounding and storage.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

location Province of Kwilu, Territories of Idiofa and Bulungu; Province of Kongo-Central, Territories of Seke-Banza and Luozi

Critical loss points identified:

- ▶ **FOR MAIZE**, drying, on-farm storage, storage at bulking; depots, transport to terminal depots and storage at terminal depots.
- ▶ **FOR RICE**, harvesting, drying, on-farm storage.



UGANDA

location north Uganda

Critical loss points identified:

- ▶ **FOR MAIZE**, harvesting, storage, milling.
- ▶ **FOR SUNFLOWER**, harvesting; drying; storage at millers points.
- ▶ **FOR BEANS**, harvesting; storage; threshing & winnowing; producer sales.



SOLUTIONS PILOTED/TESTED

The three countries engaged in testing and validating solutions to effectively reducing these losses. At the national level, collaboration between the agencies facilitated the identification of support to upscale successful interventions e.g. storage techniques, drying facilities, threshing machines. Additional solutions were also sourced through the other SDC funded projects on post-harvest management and through the CoP on food loss reduction.

DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

The development of policies and regulations was supported and facilitated by the evidence base created during project implementation. Knowledge and capacity developed under outcomes 1 and 2 provided the basis for the preparation of policy briefs. Stakeholder consultation workshops were held in Burkina Faso and the DRC, and the policy briefs were revised to account for the recommendations made by workshop participants.



BACKGROUND

The RBA Project is jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Funded by the Government of Switzerland, the Project seeks to improve food security and income-generating opportunities through the reduction of post-harvest losses in supported grain and pulse value chains. The Project identified critical loss points, and supported the piloting of good practices and solutions to reduce post-harvest losses and improve handling and storage in the pilot countries Burkina Faso, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Project will also support the development of regulatory frameworks covering policy, standards and norms to reduce food losses in food supply chains in each of the countries.

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PROJECT OUTCOMES

During the three-year lifetime, the project delivered on three outcomes

OUTCOME 1

Good practice options for reducing post-harvest losses compiled, disseminated. A Global Community of Practice (CoP) was established for knowledge sharing, partnering and mainstreaming. In addition, an E-learning course on food loss analysis was developed.



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OUTCOME 2

Improved handling and storage options within the grains and pulses value chains are benefiting smallholder farmers in pilot countries: Burkina Faso, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Critical points for food loss reduction were identified in selected grain supply chains and viable solutions formulated on the bases of identified critical loss points. Capacity developed and strengthened at key loss points for multi-stakeholders and potential solutions to reduce food losses piloted/ tested.

OUTCOME 3

Policy and regulatory framework (policy, standards, norms) on reducing food losses in food supply chains developed at national level. Proposals for improved national policy and regulatory frameworks conducive to food loss reduction identified.



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COLLABORATION AMONG THE ROME-BASED AGENCIES TOWARD THE REDUCTION OF POST-HARVEST LOSSES

Collaboration among the three UN Rome-based agencies builds upon an analysis of different needs and comparative advantages. By working together in areas complementary to their mandates, FAO, IFAD and WFP provide member countries the benefit of their combined strengths in reducing hunger, food insecurity and rural poverty.

FAO

FAO is the lead Agency for the "Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction: SAVE FOOD". It is addressing food loss reduction in Africa over the past 40 years having implemented numerous similar projects. FAO is currently implementing a number of projects (at regional, national and sub-regional levels) in Africa, Asia and Latin America that address the reduction of post-harvest losses and value chain improvement. High levels of losses are largely the result of improper handling, transportation and packaging, poor storage and weak basic and post-harvest specific infrastructure, and result in seriously diminished returns to producers while reducing the net availability of these food commodities for consumption. FAO helps to identify underlying causes of these losses, such as limited awareness and knowledge base of stakeholders in the traditional supply chains where these losses occur. These high levels of losses also negatively influence food availability, food security and nutrition. FAO provides member countries with technical assistance for policy development, integrated capacity-building, technical cooperation for the implementation of good post-harvest management practice to improve quality, assure safety and reduce losses in prioritised supply chains.

IFAD

IFAD is funding several investment programmes with governments in all African countries. The agency has a large country portfolio in each of the three selected pilot countries, which makes it an ideal partner in the elaboration of food loss reduction strategies and in the identification of entry points for their implementation. IFAD financed a total of 13 projects in Burkina Faso, 16 projects in Uganda and 8 projects in the DRC. A large proportion of IFAD investment projects in the past years are related to value chains and are directly involved in food loss reduction activities (including support to drying, storage and processing infrastructure and equipment, market infrastructure, building last-mile roads, capacity building of farmers and farmer organizations). IFAD also has expertise in policy development, which will be leveraged to support the development of the policy briefs envisioned by the joint project.

WFP

With more than 50 years of experience delivering food assistance in some of the remotest and most insecure regions, WFP is a partner of choice in the effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Zero Hunger Challenge. As a major buyer in local food markets, WFP has developed a unique knowledge of local food value chains. WFP then applies this knowledge to better address systemic issues in agriculture value chains and boost efforts to reduce food loss. WFP's deep field presence, vast experience in smallholder farmer engagement and public-private partnerships are used to roll out programmes that connect smallholder farmers to formal markets, promote crop diversification and focus on waste reduction. The overarching aim is to broaden business prospects and increase the availability of food in markets. WFP works with key agencies, partners and other actors to ensure that smallholder farmers have access to post-harvest management and storage practice knowledge and related tools. The WFP approach to post-harvest loss reduction has been successfully tested. For instance, a pedagogy has been established in Uganda, which continues to be scaled up with the goal of expanding across Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. Through its Purchase for Progress programme (P4P), WFP works closely with governments to help them purchase food from smallholder farmers, for example in the implementation of some national school feeding programmes. In addition, WFP is a member of the Farm to Market Alliance, which aims to identify the demand of buyers, link this with farmers and help them to meet this demand. The Alliance works in Tanzania, Zambia and Rwanda and is currently expanding to Kenya.



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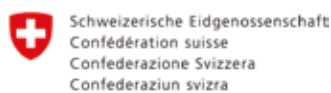
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- Contacts: food-loss-reduction@fao.org
- Website: www.fao.org/food-loss-reduction
- To register: www.fao.org/food-loss-reduction/register

Networks and partners:



With the support of:



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



17614EN/1707.17