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## UN Rome-Based Agencies' comprehensive approaches to effectively reduce post-harvest losses by ensuring sustainable upscaling of investments in post-harvest management solutions and strategies

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UN Rome-Based Agencies joint project *“Mainstreaming Food Loss Reduction Initiatives for Smallholders in Food Deficit Areas”*

AfDB-FAO

High level Ministerial Workshop to Support Post-Harvest Losses Reduction and Agro-Processing (PHAP): Flagship Launch  
Abidjan, 21-22 November, 2017



## The business case

Estimations of Post-harvest losses (PHL) in Africa show high levels, above 30% for some categories of food products

### Reducing PHL through effective post-harvest management (PHM) contribute to

- ✓ improve food security and nutrition,
- ✓ increase profits for food value chain actors (the private sector, including smallholder farmers),
- ✓ Contribute to food safety
- ✓ reduce unnecessary resource use, and increase adaptation to resilience to climate change

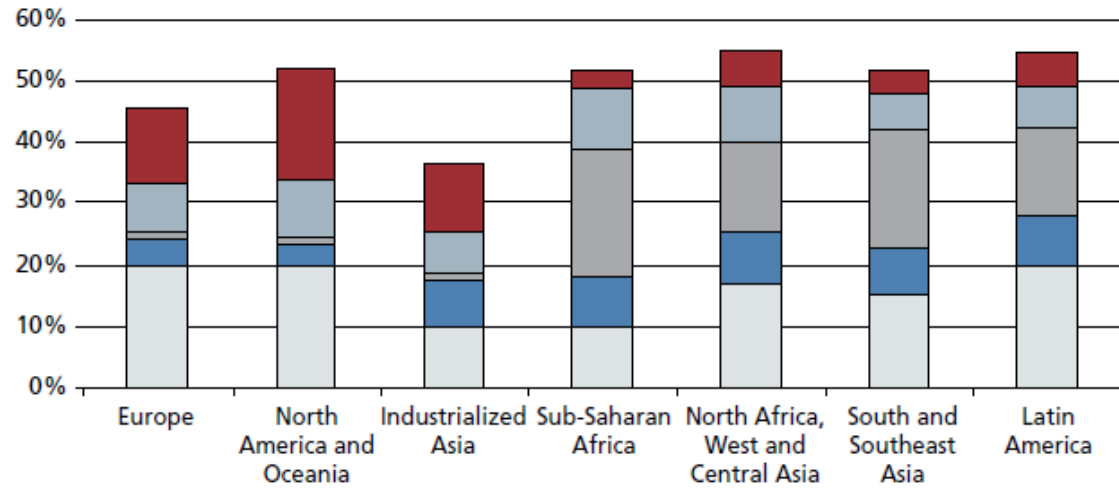
→ **AU Malabo Declaration:** Heads of States commitment to half the levels of losses by 2025

→ **PHL Reduction contributes SDGs:** to SDG 1 on ending poverty, SDG 2 ending hunger and achieving food security, improved nutrition, and sustainable agriculture, and SDG 12 ensuring sustainable consumption and production pattern

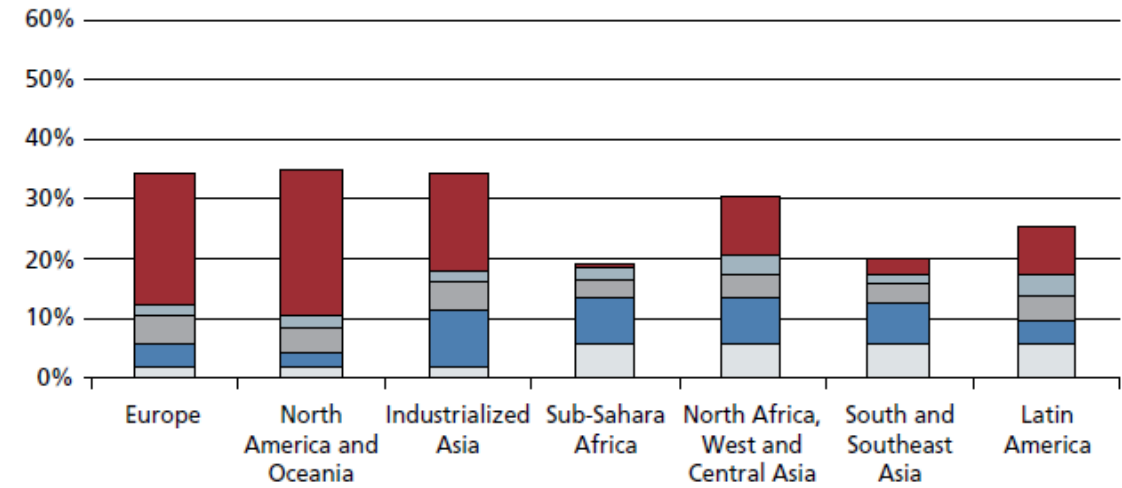


## Some estimates of PHL of different categories of products

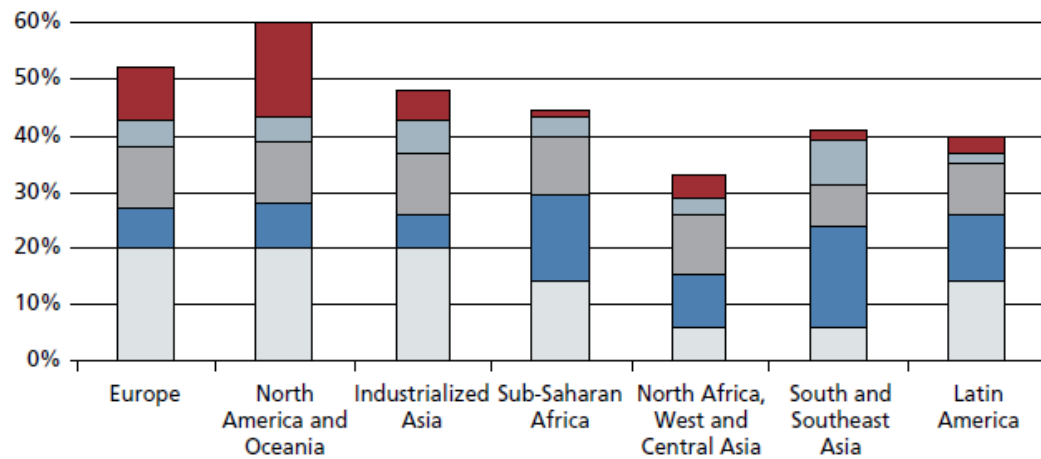
Food losses - Fruits and vegetables



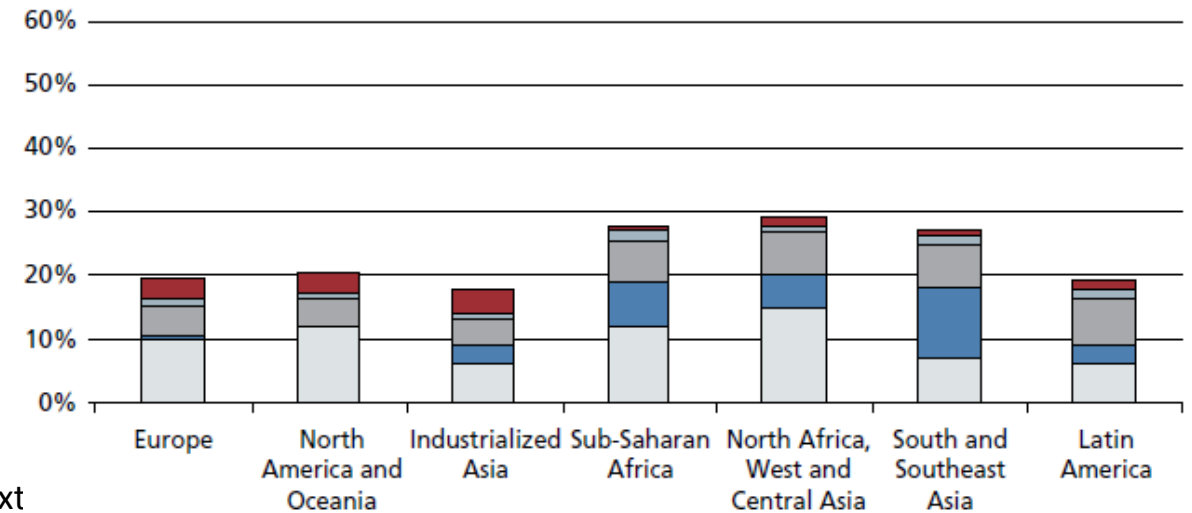
Food losses - Cereals



Food losses - Roots and Tubers



Food losses - Oilseeds and Pulses





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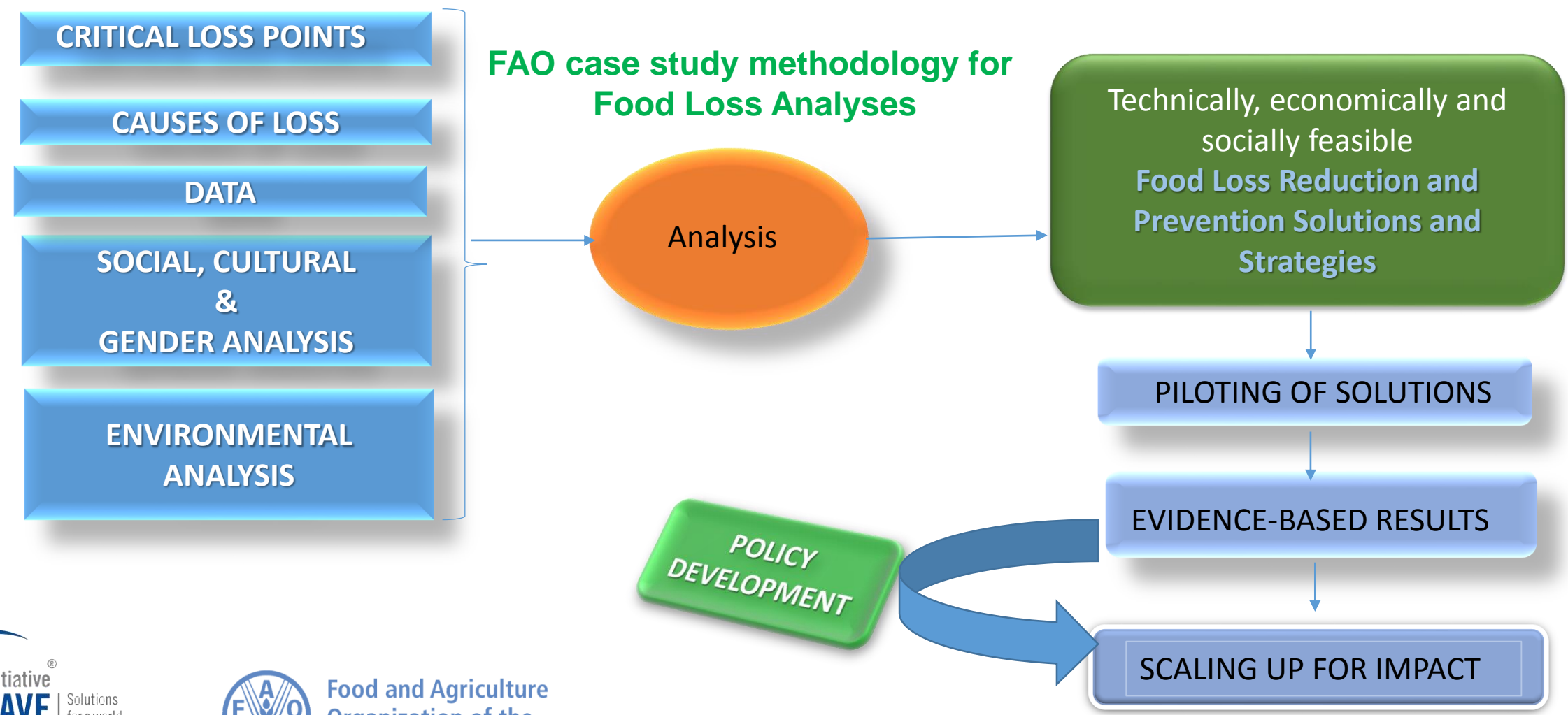
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[UN RBAs joint project](#) Mainstreaming food loss reduction initiatives for smallholders in food deficit areas to *improve food security and income generation opportunities* through reduction of food losses in supported value chains

- Building on their comparative advantages and complementarity, the UN RBAs provide expertise and technical assistance to member countries and regional institutions
- **The UN RBA promote comprehensive approaches to effectively reduce post-harvest losses (PHL) by ensuring sustainable upscaling of investments in post-harvest management solutions and strategies**

**Investment in developing a baseline** – i.e. conducting fundamental research toward identifying critical loss points in priority crop supply chains and the underlying causes of these losses

**Developing strategies to tackle the reduction of losses** through the identification of solutions that are technically economically and socially appropriate in a given context.



## Identified Critical Loss Points (CLP) and major causes of losses along selected grains supply chains in [Burkina Faso](#), the [Democratic Republic of Congo](#) and [Uganda](#)

Critical Loss Points (CLP)	Indicative levels of losses observed	Major causes and symptoms of losses observed
Harvest	Up to 14%	Poor harvesting practices (untimely harvest, insects attack, bird, other animals, rain), lack of labor
Transport to homestead	Up to 13%	Rough handling, lack of or inadequate transport means, packaging
Drying	Up to 3%	Spillage, animals, not covered against wind or rain, insufficient drying
On-farm storage, Storage at warehouses	Up to 35%	Inadequate storage practices and infrastructures causing damages by insects, rodents, moisture, molding; insufficient storage management skills
Threshing/shelling / hulling / milling	Up to 80%	Inappropriate practices (e.g. beating, tractors), spillage, breakage due to poorly adjusted equipment / machinery (e.g. Rice huller)

**Cross-cutting:** gender related issues causing losses





Investment in action research to build an evidence base to support the uptake of technologies – Piloting of the technologies with stakeholders, and providing them with the data and information required to facilitate the uptake of improved practices that result in loss reduction.

Examples of technologies piloted in Burkina Faso, DRC and Uganda during the 1st phase of the in the UN RBA joint project



Hermetic bags



Metal and plastic silos made by artisans and SMEs



Metal and plastic silos made by manufacturers



Manual sheller



Mechanized sheller



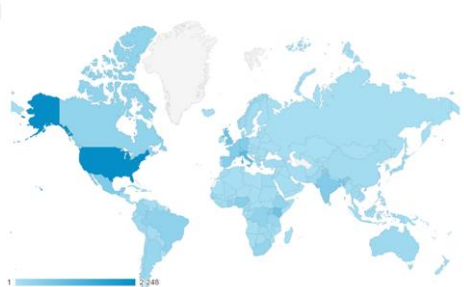
**Comprehensive approaches for sustainable and effective upscaling of PHL reduction include:**

	<b>Governments' role</b>	<b>UN RBAs' role (a)</b>	<b>Value chain actors' role (b)</b>
1. Investment in <b>developing a baseline through research (food loss analyses and assessments) to identify critical loss points and major causes for different FSC of different categories of products in different contexts</b>	xxx	TA	xx
2. <b>Developing strategies</b> to tackle the reduction of losses	xxx	TA	xx
3. Investment in <b>action research to build an evidence base to support the uptake of technologies, through hands-on training and piloting, and providing information facilitating uptake to actors</b>	xxx	TA	xx
4. Investment in <b>policy development</b> designed to promote the uptake of technologies and practice	xxx	TA	xx
5. Investment in an <b>infrastructural support base</b> for improved post-harvest practices	xxx	IFAD loans	x
6. Creation of an <b>enabling environment</b> to support the scale up of PHM <b>Incl. training at all levels</b> of the supply chain, support for <b>research and academia and job creation, enabling environment for the private sector to support both PHM supply and demand sides, and improved access to finance</b>	xxx	TA	xx
7. Investment in <b>technology development, maintenance services and technical support</b>	xxx	TA	xxx
8. <b>Investments design</b> to facilitate scale up of successes to the national level	xxx	TA	xx
9. Investment in <b>knowledge sharing, exchange and linkages amongst stakeholders</b> through dynamic platforms such as the <a href="#">Community of Practice (CoP) on food loss reduction</a>	xxx	xxx TA	xx

(a) TA based on the UN RBA's respective expertise and mandate or joint efforts

(b) Participatory and inclusive approaches

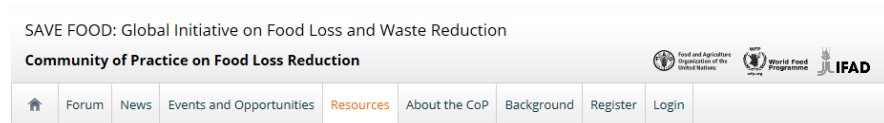
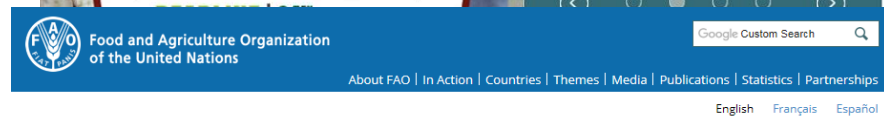
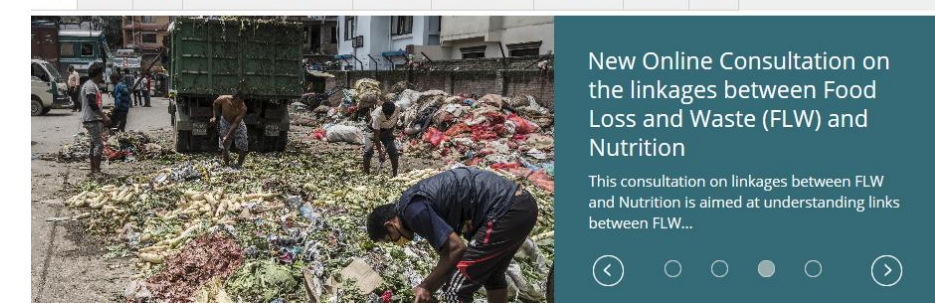




## The Global Community of Practice on food loss reduction (CoP)

A dynamic web-based global convener integrator of knowledge which facilitates linkages and information sharing

- Resources from world-wide actors, links (publications, reports, video, radio, mapping of PHM and FLR initiatives, etc.)
- A network: database of registered members with Save Food global. Near 1000 registered members in 2017
- Online forum discussions moderated
- News, Events and Opportunities (including on trainings, etc.)
- Special sections



Multimedia

- Grain Storage Technologies
- Map

### Grain Storage Technologies for Smallholders and Farmers' Groups

Central to any effort to reduce losses is the adoption of better postharvest practice. This is fundamental for smallholders who want to improve their household food security and for those wishing to make better livelihoods from grain sales.

This section was developed in collaboration with the Postharvest Loss Reduction Centre at the Natural Resources Institute (NRI). NRI, as partner of the CoP on Food Loss Reduction, contributes by sharing its expertise and by helping to connect experts.

In the framework of the Rome-based UN agencies joint project, the development of this section was supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC). Based on a survey of over 30 postharvest technologists, the NRI team developed an interactive catalogue of storage technologies for easy consultation. In addition, they have provided a simple 'app' to help users appreciate the main factors influencing smallholders' choice of a grain store.






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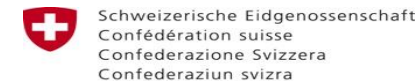
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Thank you!

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Register and contribute to the Community of Practice on Food Loss Reduction platform (CoP):

[www.fao.org/food-loss-reduction](http://www.fao.org/food-loss-reduction)