

5.14: HARVEST-TENURE RIGHTS PROVIDED BY MOBILE GRAIN STORAGE TO REDUCE POST-HARVEST LOSSES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

What problem is the solution trying to address?

Two-thirds of unconsumed food is lost at the beginning of the food chain, between the field and the point of sale. It's left rotting in the field, spoiling in poor storage or damaged during transportation. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of staple foods are lost before making it to market. Overall, a 2011 World Bank report showed that USD 4 billion worth of grain is lost in Sub-Saharan Africa each year

Food loss affects the food security and livelihoods of small farmers and small value chain actors, as well as leading to economic challenges for the greater food system. It is also a channel through which consumer access to enough quality food is impacted. Post-harvest losses also represent wasted resources (fresh water, farmland and soils, carbon emissions) used to grow food that never meets a consumer.

What, in brief, is the solution?

An Integrated Approach for Post-Harvest Loss is an “existing solution” that can be brought to scale.

The solution is a package of (1) provision of knowledge to smallholder farmers and other food system actors, (2) behaviour change communication to encourage the adoption of improved practices, and (3) sustainable business/government models to improve access to technologies and equipment for handling and storage. Supportive national agricultural policy frameworks are key elements of the enabling environment may be included in the approach.

What was/ were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?

World Food Programme - PHLM management programmes. To date, 93,000 smallholder farmers have participated in the WFP post-harvest programme, helping them save more food and sell more of their surplus in local markets. Six additional countries (Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Zambia, Burundi, Niger, and Rwanda) have begun rolling out the model, and seven others are in a preparation stage. In late 2017, WFP Sudan received a USD 19 million contribution to scale up operations in the next three years across the country.

How can this solution address that problem?

Great progress has been made on research and field pilots since 1990, developing a multitude of methods to reduce PHL, however adoption of technologies and innovations by smallholder farmers remains low due to many institutional bottlenecks, financial constraints, and low policy prioritization.

The solution can address the staggering amounts of post-harvest loss through:

Inputs:

- Policies supporting PHLM, including national agricultural policy frameworks that support credit and innovations to increase access to PHL management equipment.
- Analysis to understand key bottlenecks and pain points for each stakeholder
- Integrated programming for knowledge, SBCC and access to technologies – ensuring synergies with other food systems solutions
- Knowledge generation and sharing channels, practices and platforms

Outputs:

- Strengthened capacities of small farmers and value chain actors to manage PHLM

- Increased awareness of technical and process solutions by players
- Technical and financial assistance available
- Data and evidence available through coordinated platforms
- Sustainable PHL business environment

Outcomes:

- Reduction in post-harvest losses, increase in food quality
- Increased income for smallholder producers and other players

Impact:

- Improved food security
- Improved food production and steady consumption pattern
- Reduced risk of environment degradation

Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?

This integrated approach to reducing post-harvest losses is based on examples from WFP (as well as government, academic, and development partners) and practice in multiple operational contexts. The solution is ripe for scale. An integrated approach addresses the multiple barriers that actors face, including knowledge and skills, resources and equipment, and policy. It shifts the thinking of food systems players and incentivizes proper investment into PHLM.

What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?

Governments across the developing world are champions of the solution, as coalitions and unions such as the African Union. Interested in this field include the UN Rome Based Agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP), The CGIAR, the World Bank, Africa Development Bank and several developed countries championing food waste and loss reduction

Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, conversely, contexts for which it is not well-suited at all?

Countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia whose production potential is on the rise, have invested significantly in agriculture but food insecurity, reduced livelihoods and inefficient resource use continue as a result of smallholders’ lack of access to technology, poor infrastructure and poor value chain linkages. This solution is not suited to active conflict areas.

What do you think are the key actions required to address this solution? Please mention the implementation approach for 3 levels, if appropriate, Public Policies, Corporate, Civil Society:

The implementation approach of the solutions needs to focus on:

- Partnerships between government, academic and non-governmental institutions to build synergies, reach the target group and ensure access to resources
- Strengthened research and evidence generation to inform programming in each context
- Technical transfer and SBCC to food system actors (small farmers and value chain actors)
- Engage the private sector to build and scale sustainable business models to serve the target group while meeting business objectives

Knowledge generation and sharing