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Bringing Postharvest Management Solutions to Scale



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Why is taking action in PHM urgent?



- Approx. **one third** of all food produced in the world is lost or wasted. (FAO, 1)
- In highly food-insecure regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, approximately **20% of all grains, 44% of roots and tubers, and 52% of fruits and vegetables** are lost between harvest and consumption.
- There is also substantial degradation in quality, affecting financial value and associated incomes, nutritive content and public health.



Why is taking action in PHM urgent? (2)



→ Most losses occur at **postharvest stage**: eg. drying, storage, transport, primary processing.

→ *Postharvest loss concerns*

> **physical loss** = weight, volume, calories...

> **qualitative loss** = damage, degradation, mould, taste

> **financial loss** = value due to less volume, lower quality etc.

> **nutritive loss** = loss in vitamins, minerals etc.

> **food safety** = contamination with mycotoxins (e.g. aflatoxin), pesticides, pathogenic germs etc.

→ *Postharvest loss = loss of **resources** that were invested in production: soil, water, seed*

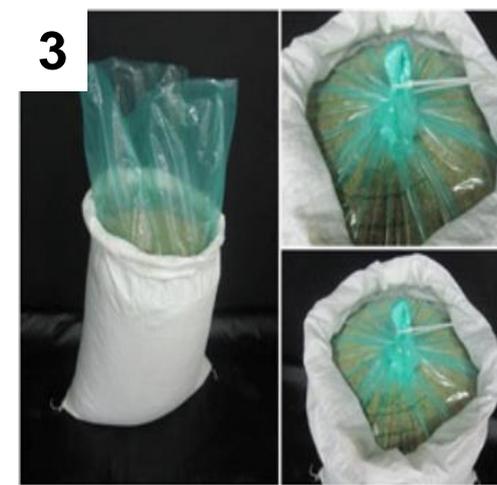


In Sub-Saharan Africa, improved postharvest management (PHM) has the potential to avoid losses equivalent to the food and nutrition requirements of 48 million people. (WB, 2)

Bellagio Learning Workshop on Postharvest Management (PHM)

Background:

- Technically proven, affordable **technologies** for storage, drying, threshing of grains/pulses **exist**, e.g. hermetic bags, metal silos, drying platforms, threshers etc.
- Examples e.g. in Central America: **Large-scale adoption** of improved PHM practices / technologies makes a significant difference in food and nutrition security
- Sub-Saharan Africa in last 10-15 years: Many projects promote PHM technologies. However:
 - > No broad adoption
 - > No mainstreaming so far
 - > Remain largely donor funded



Bellagio Learning Workshop on PHM



Objectives of Bellagio Workshop on PHM (supported by Rockefeller Foundation & SDC)

- Identify main constraints and solutions for **large-scale dissemination of PHM options**.
- Formulate concrete actions to achieve broad adoption of PHM solutions, based on a **market-system approach**.
- **Coordinate & harmonize** actions of all stakeholders

Representatives from governments,
research, private sector, NGOs:

*ZED Group;
Purdue University;
Amatheon Agri;
East African Grain Council;
AGRA;
Natural Resources Institute;
University of Illinois;
FANRPAN;
World Food Programme;
FAO - Food & Agriculture
Organization;
Rockefeller Foundation;
USAID;
Pyxera Global;
SDC - Swiss Agency for
Development & Cooperation;
HELNETAS Swiss Intercooperation.*



BELLAGIO STATEMENT ON POSTHARVEST MANAGEMENT

[PUBLICATION DATE TBD]



Bellagio Center, Postharvest Management Workshop Participants

THE CHALLENGE

After a steady decline, world hunger is on the rise again, with 815 million people – one out of every nine on the planet – food insecure or undernourished in 2016, up from 777 million in 2015¹. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations², approximately one-third of all food produced in the world is lost or wasted. In highly food-insecure, Sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 20% of all grains, 44% of roots and tubers, and 25% of fruits and vegetables are lost between harvest and consumption. There is also substantial loss of economic value and associated incomes, nutritive con-



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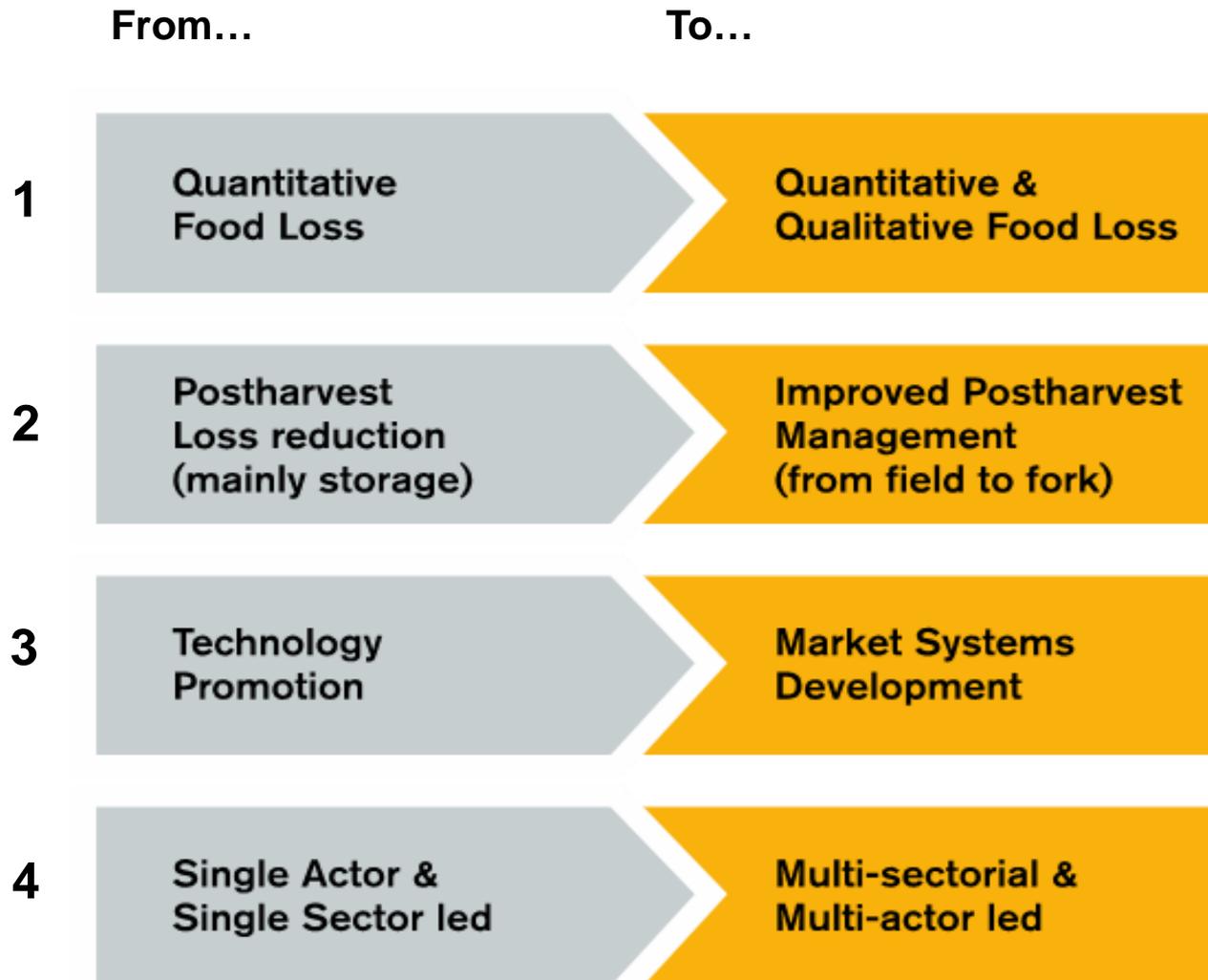
Poll – Have you heard about the Bellagio Learning Workshop on Postharvest Management or the «Bellagio Statement on Postharvest Management»?

Four key constraints for scaling up PHM



- 1. Awareness & communication:** Producers and consumers are too little aware of PHM. The communication about the importance of PHM is little effective. It is mostly seen as a «complex» technical issue, not as a tangible topic that has relatively simple solutions. Link to policy topics such as nutrition, health, economic development is often missing. - Failure to integrate the topic into policies.
- 2. Private sector engagement, including access to finance:** Data on postharvest *loss levels* are available, BUT the level of *costs/investments* needed to solve the PHM problems (cost-benefit of technologies, practices or services) are often unknown. – This hinders the engagement of private sector actors and financial services.
- 3. Coherence and coordination:** Many companies, organizations and projects work in isolation instead of fostering synergies. There is insufficient sharing and learning. Often, the approaches of different organizations to promote PHM solutions are competing or contradicting each other.
- 4. Policy dialogue and action:** Government policies do not sufficiently address PHM. To reach greater engagement of policy makers, there is an urgent need to create more awareness among them about the importance of PHM. The topic needs to be linked more strongly to other policy topics such as nutrition and health.

General shifts proposed



Action point 1: Awareness Raising and Effective Communication

Rethink and reorient the way **we communicate about postharvest management:**

1. **Communicate** about postharvest losses (PHL) as a **solvable problem**. - Much of the knowledge, technologies, and practices needed for PHL reduction is already available & mostly accessible. We just need to use them!
2. **Use real stories** for communication: PHM is often perceived as a technical, unemotional issue that is little tangible. – Campaigns & media communication should utilize real stories to make the topic more understandable, and to demonstrate risks of “bad” PHM (e.g. > 100 dead people due to aflatoxin in maize in Kenya 2004) and the benefits of good PHM (e.g. Aflasafe use & improved drying for aflatoxin control).
3. **Messages on PHM** need to be formulated differently depending on the target group:
 - **“Triple Benefit” from PHM: 1) People, 2) Planet, 3) Profit**
 - > Farmers: interest in volumes saved, better price, food security & safety
 - > Traders: securing quality, food safety, investment/benefit
 - > Policy makers: Relevance of PHM for nutrition & health, potential to develop a sector, environment
 - > Agro-businesses: efficiency of technology, proper use for successful PHL reduction, effective marketing through real stories...

→ All this is of direct relevance to extension workers!

Action point 2: Private Sector Engagement & Access to Finance

Orient our actions towards the questions: - *How can the production, distribution and use of postharvest technologies be made financially interesting and viable for all market actors?*
- *How can we encourage entrepreneurship to bring PHM options closer to farmers?*

1. Use a **market system approach** to promote PHM: Find market actors, e.g. small / middle entrepreneurs, retailers, artisans, service providers etc. that have the capacity and interest to promote/sell PHM technologies.
 - Support these market actors in creating linkages to input suppliers & farmers, dissemination, promotional activities etc.
 - Projects, NGOs should not become service providers themselves...
2. IF **subsidies** / financial support from projects are provided: Subsidies should support activities that aim to **create demand** e.g. awareness creation, training opportunities – Subsidies should NOT support the supply side such as PHM products or technologies. Why? – Sustainability, lasting change in the market!
3. To improve **access to finance** for farmers and small entrepreneurs: More work is required to clearly demonstrate tangible (financial) benefits from investments in PHM, and promote suitable financial services. For example: What does a farmer or a trader pay for a metal silo, how much does she/he gain from reduced loss?

→ **Role of extension workers is again crucial in these topics!**

Action points 3 & 4



→ We will elaborate & discuss more specifically on action points 3 & 4 in the next webinar (tentative: September 2018)

Links & resources – Bellagio Statement on Postharvest Management



HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation - Bellagio Statement on Postharvest Management

https://www.helvetas.org/topics/working_areas/rural_economy/bellagio_statement_on_postharvest_mnagement.cfm

Community of Practice on Food Loss Reduction

www.fao.org/food-loss-reduction/news/detail/en/c/1043703/

AFAAS – African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services

www.afaas-africa.org/projects/postharvest-management-sub-saharan-africa-phm-ssa-project

FANRPAN – Food Agricultural & Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network

www.fanrpan.org/archive/projects/postharvest/sdc-phm/



Thank you – Asante – Merci – Obrigado – Aw ni ce!