



Preserving Harvests – Eradicating Hunger

Food Loss in Sub-Saharan Africa

There is enough food to feed the world’s 7 billion people. But still, some 800 million people around the world are trapped in a life of poverty and hunger. In some developing countries, up to 40 percent of food production is lost before it even leaves the farm gate. In the weeks after harvest, Sub-Saharan Africa alone loses 20 million metric tons of food each year, valued at over \$4 billion, according to a 2011 study by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). **What if there was a way to save these crops?**

The Power of the Small Farmer

Imagine a world where the smallest land-holders pull themselves and their communities out of hunger...

Insects. Rodents. Moisture. Mould. These are the age-old enemies in the world’s food supply chain – the farmer’s nemeses. To combat them, the World Food Programme (WFP) has turned to a practical, yet innovative solution. By addressing inadequate post-harvest management and storage practices, WFP is transforming the lives of low-income farmers struggling to meet their families’ basic food needs.

With simple but superior airtight storage equipment and training in how to use it, small-scale farmers throughout Sub-Saharan Africa no longer have to struggle to preserve

their hard-earned harvests from spoilage and pests. Their crops stored safely in improved storage facilities, they no longer rush to sell immediately after harvest at low prices, only to buy food at much higher prices or seek assistance later in the year.

Farmers can free themselves from poverty, growing their incomes and providing food, medicine, and education for their children. If applied at scale, many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa could reduce their need for food imports and food assistance.

By preserving their harvests, farmers also make more efficient use of land and water, becoming better custodians of their most important resources. Proper training and storage units bring increased crops to market without the additional labor, land, materials, resources and biofuel expansion required with increased production.

Transforming Lives – Strengthening the Food Supply Chain

At least three-quarters of the food WFP purchases comes from developing countries, stimulating local economies and reducing the time it takes to reach the hungry. We work with local farmers to increase the quality and quan-

Impact Areas



Increases Food Availability: More Food to Market



Reduces Costs: More Funds for Investment



Increases Income: More Control of Decisions



Preserves Environment: Sustainable Future



Empowers Women: More Income, More Choices

tity of food they produce and help connect them to buyers. This is why we launched the Zero Food Loss Initiative in 2013.

The results are game-changing. WFP's unique post-harvest management support, coupled with airtight storage equipment, enables farmers to retain more than 98 percent of their harvests, where those same farmers had previously lost up to 60 percent with traditional storage methods. In just one harvest, farmers are able to pay off their investments in new storage devices, and on average can triple their incomes year over year.

This is particularly significant for women farmers, who are afforded more free time to pursue other income-generating activities. More income means more food on the table for farming families and more children of farmers in school.

Why is this Working?

Replicates proven models – by identifying sound post-harvest management practices used in other regions

Fosters partnerships – with governments, NGOs, United Nations and private sector to create local knowledge networks and opportunities

Develops capacity – of farmers to understand key biological and environmental factors leading to rotting, fungal infestation, insect and weather spoilage

Equips & supports farmers – by providing access to airtight storage units and drying equipment, along with guidance on proper usage

Be a Leader on Zero Food Loss

Your organisation can make a meaningful, measurable impact on the most important issue of the day – helping

to build a safer, more prosperous world for everyone. By partnering with WFP on this project, you will help:

- Empower low-income farmers to find their own way out of hunger
- Support one of the few social innovations that can reach massive scale, based on concrete, tangible and measurable results
- Foster local private sector development to help economies grow (this is notably done through supporting local production, distribution, and financing of post-harvest storage equipment)
- Safeguard fragile lands by fostering efficient use of scarce water and natural resources
- Generate a long-term impact through an initiative that is designed for sustainability by actively involving local governments and the private sector
- Take part in the UN's Zero Hunger Challenge

Our Goal:

Zero Hunger through Zero Food Loss

The Zero Food Loss Initiative is just one example of how WFP is working with farmers, local communities and the private sector to build a world with zero hunger, one country at a time. WFP continues to scale up the initiative, with the ultimate goal of rolling it out across Sub-Saharan Africa – and beyond.

Because of the Zero Food Loss Initiative, many farmers will have a surplus supply of grain for consumption and trade for the very first time, improving individual incomes and increasing national and international trading opportunities for the countries in which WFP operates.

Join us in enabling Africa's small farmers to pull themselves and their communities out of hunger.



Additional Information

[Trial Results >](#) [Articles >](#)
[Project Document >](#)

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