



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)







## 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.

©FAO/Mirrielle Totobesola

# 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.



©FAO/Mirrielle Totobesola



©FAO/Mirrielle Totobesola

## 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.



©FAO/DRC

# ACTIVITIES AT COUNTRY LEVEL (2015-2017)

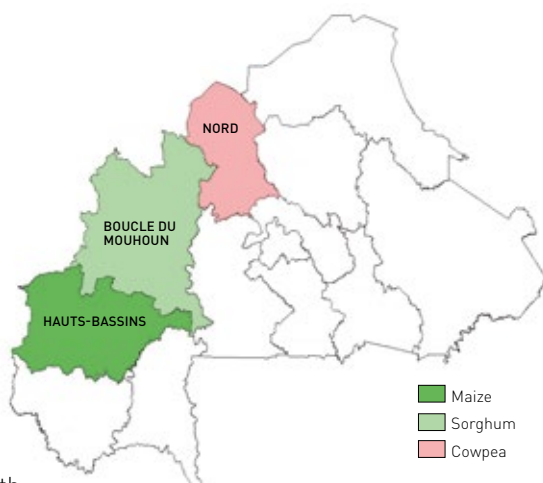
Description of regions, crops and critical loss points analysed in the three countries during the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of the project

## 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.





©FAO/DIRC

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





© FAO/Uganda



© FAO/Burkina Faso



© FAO/Alessia Pierdomenico



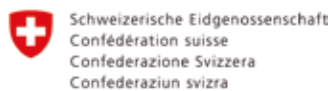
© FAO/DRC

- Contacts: [food-loss-reduction@fao.org](mailto:food-loss-reduction@fao.org)
- Website: [www.fao.org/food-loss-reduction](http://www.fao.org/food-loss-reduction)
- To register: [www.fao.org/food-loss-reduction/register](http://www.fao.org/food-loss-reduction/register)

*Networks and partners:*



*With the support of:*



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



17614EN1707.17