



Postharvest Management in Sub-Saharan Africa (PHM-SSA)

1st Africa Post Harvest Congress
March 28– 31, 2017
Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

Work stream 5

Session Theme: Policy, Practice, Gender Angles in Postharvest Management Wednesday March 29, 2017

Every year African smallholder farmers experience huge post-harvest losses of cereal crops and grain legumes. These post-harvest losses represent significant costs at household and at national level and have been at the center of research, policy, and development practice in the last 50 years. In the area of research, progress has been made in perfecting the art of quantifying the scale of losses and documenting their economic and welfare consequences. Research and development efforts have focused on two approaches for reducing post-harvest losses. In one approach, scientists attempted to reduce post-harvest grain losses by breeding for better insect pest tolerance during storage. However, this has met with limited success partly because of the grain quality – the grain becomes harder which brings new problems with processing and utilization. In the second approach, development organisations introduced different types of ‘improved’ post-harvest storage technologies across many countries in Africa. Examples of the alternative storage technologies include brick bins, cement and mud plastered baskets. More recently, there has been a promotion of hermetic storage technologies such as metal silos and super grain bags. Rigorous evaluations demonstrated the potential of the hermetic storage technologies to reduce post-harvest losses in grains. They potentially assist households to buy cheaper grains at peak harvest time, and to use the grains throughout the year. However, new insights show that the potential gains associated with use of the improved storage technologies have not been enjoyed by small, poor farmers especially women.

Evidence suggests that the design and implementation of the improved storage technologies fail to take into account the cultural context in which adoption and utilization occurs. The inability to develop and adhere to the norms and standards related to PHM and understand gender and social cultural implications of the technologies means missed opportunity to respond to needs, preferences, and constraints of different social groups.

FANRPAN will lead Work Stream 5 of the Congress: Session on Policy, Practice, and Gender Angles in Postharvest Management on Wednesday March 29, 2017. This session will provide a platform to showcase on-going PHM development and research programme initiatives which promote a robust and consistent PHM approach that is responsive to gender and social equity. Two key papers will be presented on “**An evaluation of gender roles, relationships, and social equity in post-harvest management in Benin and Mozambique**” and “**Policy Frameworks for Food Standards Related to Post-Harvest Management of Grains and Pulses.**”

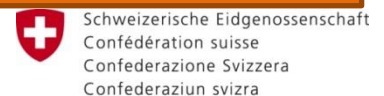
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For more details regarding the [1st Africa Post Harvest Congress & exhibition](#) and the session contact FANRPAN: CSA_plus@fanrpan.org or Dr Jane Ambuko: jane.ambuko@uonbi.ac.ke

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