

Grain Postharvest Loss Prevention



Project full name:
Grain Postharvest Loss
Prevention (GPLP)

Domain:
Employment and Income

Phase II:
2018-2020

SDC contribution:
CHF 2,200,000

Total phase budget:
CHF 2,200,000

Implementing partner:
HELVETAS Swiss
Intercooperation

Main partners:

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Local Government Authorities (Extension Officers)
- Agriculture Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF)
- Universities: Swiss and Tanzanian
- Agro-dealers
- Artisans of metal silos
- Hermetic bags producers

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Project overview

In Tanzania, more than one third of the population living in rural areas is poor. Eighty five percent of them are smallholder farmers who rely on agriculture as their main source of income and livelihood.

Tanzanian smallholder farmers lose up to 40% of their harvests due to poor handling and storage methods. Postharvest losses (PHL) are high for different crops, but are of particular concern for grains, especially cereal and pulses which form the base for food and income for the majority.

Switzerland is supporting postharvest management (PHM) of food grains to increase rural household food security and incomes through the promotion of better practices and technologies such as the use of metal silos and hermetic bags, as well as improving policies around PHM in Tanzania.

Overall goal

To reduce postharvest losses in food grains in the Central Corridor of Tanzania and improve food security and incomes of targeted farming households.

Challenges and opportunities

Past agriculture strategies have not paid adequate attention to PHL issues in efforts to increase food and income security. Although currently the policy environment is more receptive to the importance of grain PHL, there is still room for improvement at household level where the greatest losses occur.

To avoid postharvest losses, small-scale farmers often sell their grains immediately after harvesting at the lowest price in the season. Consequently, they have to purchase food grains at a higher price when their stock runs out.

The GPLP project aims to reduce PHL in food grains, leading to an increased availability of quality food for home consumption and income for smallholder farmers in the Central Corridor of Tanzania. The promotion of silo technology and hermetic bags, and increasing policy dialogue amongst stakeholders have the potential to reduce PHL, contribute positively to agricultural productivity and grain markets, and increase food security.

This project is inspired by a similar Swiss-funded project in Central America, which was adapted to the Tanzanian context. Phase II, which is an exit phase, places an emphasis on an improved policy environment, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Local Government Authorities. It also focuses on increasing the demand for postharvest technologies, while continuing to strengthen the supply chain.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- > A solid multi-stakeholder dialogue and a coordination platform are in place and operational.
- > An increase in awareness and knowledge amongst male and female farmers on postharvest practices and technologies.
- > A functioning supply system for metal silos and hermetic bags is in place.
- > Through collaborations with various research institutions, experiences are well documented and disseminated both in Tanzania and in the region.

Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries are small-scale farmers producing grains and pulses in the Central Corridor. Other beneficiaries are agro-dealers and producers of post-harvest technologies: companies producing hermetic bags and artisans of metal silos.



Artisans making a metal silo © HELVETAS