



Reducing postharvest losses

Priorities for ASARECA

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About ASARECA

- ❑ ASARECA is “the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa”.
- ❑ We cover 11 countries namely: Burundi, DR. Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sudan, S. Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania.
- ❑ Staple Crops Programme is one of the 8 programmes



Strategic Objective of ASARECA

To promote regional economic growth by developing, introducing and disseminating agricultural technologies that respond to markets and to the prevailing and future economic opportunities for new technologies as well as maintaining the long term sustainability of the agricultural resource base

- ☐ Jointly addressing challenges and opportunities to improve agriculture in the sub-region.
- ☐ Coordinate the generation of cost effective technologies, knowledge and innovations for sharing as public goods, among member countries.
- ☐ Complement the activities of NARS in delivering the products and services of agricultural research, extension and training for the sub-region.
- ☐ Provide a forum for regional dialogue on agricultural policy bottlenecks.

Priority Staple Crops

- ☐ Maize
- ☐ Cassava
- ☐ Rice
- ☐ Potato
- ☐ Sweet Potato
- ☐ Banana
- ☐ Sorghum
- ☐ Millet
- ☐ Wheat



Our thematic areas

- ❑ Staple Crops Programme works with 3 thematic areas which address technologies and innovations including new varieties, seed production technologies, integrated approaches for crop production, pest and disease management....
- ❑ **Theme 3: *Enhancing value addition and improving access to regional and global markets of staple crops in ECA.***
Address postharvest issues, value addition, trans-boundary related policy issues, public-private partnerships, output value chains and capacity building in the areas of postharvest systems

Situational analysis for the ASARECA region

- ❑ **Seasonality of production**, which is also not reliable due to climate variability – consequently there are surplus commodities at harvest time leading to collapse of prices and post-harvest losses (causing losses for producers), followed by shortages (increasing food costs for consumers) soon after.
- ❑ **Very limited utilization of all sources of food** leading to staple diets based on a very narrow selection of food sources. For example, starchy commodities, fruits, and vegetables are only consumed in their areas of production and only during the seasons of production.

Situational analysis for the ASARECA region

- ❑ **Long-distances** between centers of food production and the centers of consumption coupled with poor infrastructure (roads, storage, equipment)
- ❑ **Short stable shelf-life** of most sources of food other than grains



Situational analysis for the ASARECA region



ASARECA recognizes that we can reduce post-harvest losses and enhance income through processing and value addition, improved pre-harvest systems, increased access to markets and marketing, extension of the reach of food, facilities and infrastructure, information, and enabling policies.

What we are doing on post harvest of staples

- ❑ Processing banana into wine and juice in eastern province of Rwanda-this has reduced losses farmers face by creating demand for their banana, better prices



What we are doing on post harvest of staples



- ❑ Processing sorghum into products of acceptable standards for high end market outlets in Tanzania

What we are doing on post harvest of staples



- ❑ Storage facilities for potato in Kenya: Farmers get better prices when the production glut ends

What we are doing on post harvest of staples



- ❑ Mechanizing value chain processes in Kenya: Wheat thresher to increase efficiency and enhance farm gate prices

Standards development and harmonization

East African Standards for Cassava, Sweet Potatoes & Related Products

Standard Number	Standard Title
FDEAS 771:2012	Fresh sweet potatoes — specification
FDEAS 772:2012	Dried sweet potato chips — specification
FDEAS 773:2012	Sweet potato flour — specification
FDEAS 774:2012	Sweet potato crisps — specification
FDEAS 775:2012	Code of hygienic practice for producing and handling fresh potatoes
FDEAS 776:2012	Code of hygienic practice for producing and handling fresh cassava
FDEAS 777:2012	Code of practice for reduction of acrylamide in potato products
FDEAS 778:2012	Fresh bitter cassava — specification
FDEAS 779:2012	High Quality cassava flour (HQCF) — specification
FDEAS 780:2012	Fresh cassava leaves — specification
FDEAS 782:2012	Composite flour — specification

Priority areas for ASARECA on Post harvest

- ❑ Attraction of investment (PPP) into agro-processing facilities for priority value chains
- ❑ Warehousing/warehousing receipt system using the PPP model
- ❑ Infrastructure development particularly storage facilities
- ❑ Establish and/or expand centres of excellence dealing with agro-processing
- ❑ Strengthen extension services dealing with agro-processing
- ❑ Expand and give priority to development of critical skills required in post harvest systems

Priority areas for ASARECA on Post harvest

- ❑ Improve economies of scale and penetration of foreign markets by developing clusters of value chain actors
- ❑ Enhance regionally-shared support industries such as manufacture of processing equipment on the basis of comparative advantage
- ❑ Business incubation and entrepreneurship development
- ❑ Effectively link small and medium size agricultural producers to markets (markets vs marketing??)
- ❑ Harmonization of policies and further development of standards

Thank You



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