

Key Messages - Postharvest Expert Meeting & Policy Writeshop 12 – 14 August, 2014

Judith Ann Francis

Senior Programme Coordinator, S&T Policy

CTA, The Netherlands



Key Messages

- **Goal** of reducing PHL must be clear – Academic exercise in tracking losses, piloting new scientific methods or to improve financial returns – **Can we be practical, pragmatic and cost effective?**
- **Challenges of developing countries** – Can ACP countries learn from Northern and Southern experiences and apply in industry/research/extension – **PH Centres of Excellence?**



Key Messages

- **Policymakers** – Policies exist but implementation is weak; disconnect from policy and science continues. Are scientists generating the needed evidence in a timely manner – **Can the scientific research & training be more relevant to policymakers and industry actors/?**
- **Norms and standards** – national, regional are important but remain a challenge. **Should these be industry-led/driven?**



Key Messages

- **PH Profession** – This is in decline or is it? Is there need to rebrand the types of professions, upgrade the training and link it more closely to the needs of industry in own country and abroad? – **Are the university programmes still relevant?**
- **Public-Private partnerships** – Important but the risk is that the knowledge is not available to others. **How can knowledge institutes optimize the PP and yet produce public goods that benefit society benefit?**



Key Messages

- **Quick wins / low hanging fruits** – A lot of knowledge exists which can be immediately applied? – **How can the ACP region capitalize on the existing knowledge?**
- **Understanding Consumers & Consumer trends** – General lack of understanding of markets and supply chains and consumer preferences. **How can knowledge institutes contribute to enhancing knowledge of consumer behaviour to support investments in reducing PHL.**



Key Questions

- Will **reducing PHL** make a difference for improving incomes, livelihoods, economic development?
What evidence exists?
- How do we change **attitudes**? Or is this a problem hindering development in
- **Governments** have invested in reducing PHL but systems are not working and **policy shifts** negate gains made. How can this be improved?
- Do **researchers** still need to evaluate chain performance? What is the **real PHL problem?**



Key Questions

- How to bring **existing** knowledge to the real world?
- How to mobilize R&D basket fund & resources for infrastructural development? What economic incentives are needed for farmers and other value chain actors to invest in reducing PHL?
- **Are the issues on PHL being raised on the right platforms?** Who needs to be convinced? Is there need to involve policymakers, farmers and other industry actors in the research?



Smallholder Realities



What new knowledge – what research?

- What are the priorities?
- Who decides & how?
- Can we integrate scientific and indigenous knowledge? What are the benefits? Who gains/loses? Ownership?
- What investments are needed?



Key Issues for Expert Consultation

- Postharvest knowledge spans a range of commodities, actors, activities, disciplines, technologies
 - Multiple information sources need to be tapped & new knowledge generated - the extent of the problem is not fully known / understood
- ACP region requires several interventions at different scales for innovation
 - Research, education, training, outreach and infrastructural development including policies, food standards & legislation
 - There is no one fit all answer but action must be taken



Expected Outputs

- Draft synthesis report
- Draft policy brief on ACP postharvest knowledge system
- Consensus on setting up an ACP postharvest network



Conclusion

**We expect
successful
outcomes**

