



Tanzania Post-harvest Management Platform (TPMP)

Post-harvest Management Conference:

“Reducing post-harvest losses for food security and industrialization”

Introduction

The world’s population is expected to grow from 7 billion today to 9 billion by 2050. During the same period, Africa’s population is expected to double from the current 1.2 billion to 2.5 billion. From 2015-2050, half of the world’s population growth is expected to be concentrated in nine countries, Tanzania included¹. Tanzania suffers frequent food shortages, especially in some parts of the coastal regions, the semi-arid central regions, and some parts of north-west regions. The reasons for the shortage among others is inherent weaknesses in post-harvest systems, which contribute to high food prices, as a result of decreased food supply to the market, since part of the food produced is lost soon after harvesting.

The need for improved agricultural production and food security has never been greater. One strategy for increasing the food available to feed the ever-increasing population is to ensure proper and better utilization of the food that is already produced. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Bank reports reveal that about one third (30 to 40%) of the food produced globally is lost or wasted annually. The loss translates to 1.3 billion tons of food per year in a world where over 870 million people go hungry. In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), postharvest losses (PHL) for grains alone exceed USD 4 billion. This magnitude of food loss exceeds the value of total food aid received in the region (SSA) over the last decade, and further equates to the annual value of cereal imports to SSA. In another perspective, such losses are estimated to be equivalent to the annual caloric requirement of 48 million people. FAO results from different research studies suggest that farmers in Tanzania lose up to 40% of produce after harvesting. The losses vary depending on the nature of the crop with serious losses in perishable goods.

Food Losses and Waste (FLW) negatively impact food security, nutrition and economic stability. Reduction of FLW is an important and viable strategy to ensure food and nutritional security in efficient and sustainable food systems.

Against this background, the Tanzania Post-Harvest Management Platform (TPMP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF), Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF), HELVETAS, Department of Agricultural Economics and Business (DAEB) of the University of Dar es Salaam is organizing a two-day conference to be held at the Nkrumah Hall, University of Dar es Salaam on **18th and 19th October 2017**. The aim of the conference is to discuss pertinent issues and challenges on post-harvest management as an important component of food security and industrialisation in Tanzania. The conference also will be used for sharing the lessons from the GPLP project first phase. The discussion during the conference will aim to achieve the following specific objectives:

- i. Stimulate knowledge exchange among PHM actors.
- ii. Provide opportunities to learn about on-going research and initiatives/programs in the field,

¹<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/2015-report.html>

- iii. Build synergies through networking and finding opportunities for collaboration among PHM actors and inspire cooperation on research.

This will be an exciting brainstorming conference presenting the challenges and solutions to post-harvest losses and have the opportunity to get introduced to innovative entrepreneurs, local and international investors, strategic partners and government officials. Over 150 participants are expected to attend this conference which will also provide a platform for professionals from academia, government, research, private sector, NGOs, civil society organizations and the industrial sector to discuss key scientific, business and regulatory issues. International and local distinguished keynote speakers in the area of post-harvest management will grace the occasion together with other scientists and professionals in the field.

This conference is part of the on-going effort to develop a National Post-Harvest Management Strategy for Tanzania, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in collaboration with ANSAF, HELVETAS, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Rural Urban Development Initiatives (RUDI) and other stakeholders. This interaction is expected to trigger discussions with particular reference to topics and issues of significance to the agricultural transformation and industrialization move in the developing world and in Tanzania in particular. The closing ceremony will be marked by **key takeaway messages** and an “**award**” event to recognize individuals or organizations who have significantly contributed towards post-harvest management in Tanzania.

All interested participants are invited to submit abstracts on the conference themes listed below. We welcome interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary oriented abstracts. Authors may also submit abstracts on other themes relevant to the wider field of postharvest management and agricultural transformation. Abstracts must be in English and should not exceed 300 words. Submitted abstracts should contain name(s) of author(s), affiliations and email addresses. The submitted abstract should clearly indicate the preferred mode of presentation (oral or poster). The submission deadline is **15th September 2017**. Confirmation of acceptance to the selected abstracts will be communicated to authors by **20th September 2017**. Send your abstract to phm@ansaf.or.tz and domician@udsm.ac.tz

Themes:

1. Practices and strategies for post-harvest loss reduction
2. Innovations including ICT and financing in post-harvest technologies for Industrialization
3. Post-harvest management and food and nutrition security nexus
4. Climate change and post-harvest dynamics
5. Policy and enabling environment for post-harvest management and industrialization
6. Gender and youth in post-harvest management

Conference structure/approach:

A high level government representative will officially open the conference and presentations will be preceded by a keynote paper. The conference will comprise of plenary and parallel sessions on different sub themes. Renowned experts from within Tanzania will be invited to attend the conference and deliver presentations. Posters will be displayed throughout the conference and a dedicated poster session will be arranged to facilitate discussions with the presenting authors.