

Improving Postharvest Processing of Rice, Millet, Sorghum and Cassava in West Africa

Deployment of improved technologies in replacement of age-old practices is a *sine qua non* to preventing the huge postharvest losses during food grain and tuber crops processing.

Rice, millet, sorghum and cassava constitute the major sources of calories for the peoples of West Africa. The postharvest technological scenario in the cereals and tuber crops of West African countries presents a dismal picture, and is mostly characterized by traditional techniques practiced by growers, traders and the processors. This results in considerable deterioration of both physical and nutritional qualities of the harvested crops. These lead to huge postharvest losses, and aggravate the food insecurity situation of the countries. Although many postharvest technologies have been developed, they are either not used or used inappropriately.

This project is specifically focused on promoting cost effective postharvest processing technologies in Senegal, Niger, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Benin and Ghana. It seeks to increase the market value and the shelf life of processed rice, millet, sorghum and cassava. The project is directly addressing the challenges linked to users' unfamiliarity with available technologies; adequate adaptation of available technologies, and refusal of processors to use available technologies



Cereal grains processing machine produced by ITA, Senegal.

Main Beneficiaries

Cereal grain and cassava processors will benefit from improved cost-effective processing technologies. Producers of food grains and tuber crops will benefit from increased shelf-life of processed products, hence a reduction in post-harvest losses. SMEs will benefit from enhanced value of the stock of their processed agricultural products. Consumers will have less spoilage of purchased products, and will also benefit from enhanced nutritive value of the products.

Main regional benefits

Improved cereal and cassava processing techniques will be out-scaled to countries of the sub-region.

Partners

This CAADP-compliant project is funded by USAID and is coordinated by CORAF/WECARD. The implementing partners are: le Centre Songhai, Benin; Institut technologie Alimentaire, Senegal; L'Institut d'Economie Rurale, Mali; L'Institut de Recherche en Sciences Appliquées et Technologies (IRSAT) du Burkina Faso ; IITA ; National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Nigeria; l'Institut National des Recherches Agricoles (INRAB) du Bénin; AfricaRice; CERNA/UAC-FSA, Benin; Centre Béninois de Normalisation et de Gestion de la Qualité; Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Food Research Institute (CSIR-FRI), Ghana; and l'Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique, Le Groupement Lakhalkaney (GL) du Niger.

Formatted: Font: Georgia, Font color: Gray-60%

Components	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
1 Capacity Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity strengthening needs of trainees for processing of specific crops identified Training manuals produced 	<p><u>Outcome1</u> Enhanced capability of food grains and cassava processors to use advanced processing techniques</p>	<p>Reduced postharvest food grain and cassava losses in Senegal, Niger, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Benin and Ghana</p> <p>Enhanced wellbeing of food grain and cassava processors in Senegal, Niger, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Benin and Ghana</p>
2 Technology Demonstration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved and adapted techniques for processing cereals (rice, millet and sorghum) proposed Improved and adapted techniques for processing cassava proposed 	<p><u>Outcome1</u> Enhanced productivity of cereal and cassava processing</p> <p><u>Outcome1</u> Increased uptake of new processing technologies</p>	
3 Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional arrangements for networking of participating institutions and producers established Awareness creating tools on the values of improved processing technologies developed 	<p><u>Outcome1</u> Increased investments in post-harvest equipment</p>	

For more information

Please contact: Dr. Ernest Asiedu

Email: e.asiedu@coraf.org

www.coraf.org

© 2012 CORAF/WECARD. All rights reserved

CORAF/WECARD

7 Avenue Bourguiba

BP 48 Dakar-RP

Senegal

Tel: +221.338.699.618

Fax: +221.338.699.631