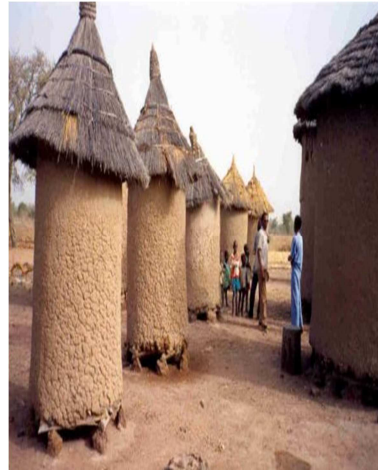


# Promotion of Maize and Cowpea Postharvest Technologies in West and Central Africa

**Deploying improved postharvest technologies in maize and cowpea has the capability of boosting food supply via the elimination of postharvest losses, thus increasing food security of the growing population of West & Central Africa.**

**More than 25% of food grains (cereals and food legumes) produced by farmers never reaches the final consumers as a result of postharvest losses. These losses are caused by poor produce handling, bruising during harvest and transportation, spoilage due to pests and microbial infestations, increased ripening, poor storage, inappropriate processing and packaging. These losses could be much more overwhelming in rural communities where lack of requisite infrastructure aggravates an already calamitous situation. Such losses worsens food supply and gravely diminish the revenue earning opportunities for growers, marketers and consumers alike.**

This project is based on the principle that sustainable food security in West Africa must be hinged on the pillars of a robust postharvest system. In this regard, therefore, the project is focusing on the challenges posed by grain storage pests. It is also promoting improved grain processing techniques and products.



Age-old grain storage in West Africa



Modern silos under construction

## Main beneficiaries

Producers will benefit from new techniques in the control of grain storage insect pests and diseases. Food processors will benefit from advances in food grains handling and processing. Consumers will benefit from increased grain storage capacity and enhanced nutritive value of the produce.

## Main regional benefits

Improved maize and cowpea postharvest techniques will be out-scaled to countries of the sub-region.

## Partners

This CAADP-aligned project is funded by DFID and is coordinated by CORAF/WECARD. The implementing partners are Institut de Technologie Alimentaire (ITA), Sénégal; Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA), Sénégal; Institut de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement (IRAD), Cameroun; Institut de Recherche Agronomique de Guinée (IRAG), Guinée; Institut National de Recherches Agronomiques du Niger (INRAN), Niger.

Components	Outputs	Outcomes	Impact
<b>1</b>  <b>Technology Adaptation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost effective technologies for the control of grain storage pests in poor rural settings identified</li> <li>• Postharvest Technology transfer strategy developed</li> </ul>	<b>Outcome 1</b> Reduced spoilage of grains in storage	<b>Domestic agriculture is promoted</b>  <b>Increased availability of food during off-season</b>  <b>Enhanced wellbeing of food grain producers in, Cameroun, Guinea, Niger and Senegal.</b>
<b>2</b>  <b>Product Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed maize and cowpeas products developed</li> <li>• Methods to prolong shelf-life of the grain products proposed.</li> <li>• Packaging options for increased market value of processed products proposed</li> </ul>	<b>Outcome 2</b> Enhanced hygienic and marketing quality of stored and processed products  <b>Outcome 3</b> Increased shelf-life of processed products  <b>Outcome 4</b> Increased investment in the agro-processing sub-sector	
<b>3</b>  <b>Capacity Strengthening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity of farmers to store and provide quality raw material strengthened</li> <li>• Capacity of rural-based agro-processors strengthened to manipulate and adapt advanced techniques</li> <li>• Appropriate audio visual and paper-based extension materials produced</li> <li>• Capacity of national institutions strengthened in processing and grain storage equipment design</li> </ul>	<b>Outcome 5</b> Tools and best practices assimilated in postharvest grain storage and in product development  <b>Outcome 6</b> Enhanced capability of research institutions to design and install postharvest equipment	

#### For more information

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