



## REDUCE PHL NEWS

June 2014



The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for the Reduction of Post-Harvest Loss is a strategic and applied research and education program aimed at providing global leadership in food security by reducing post-harvest loss and food waste of durable staple crops (grains, oilseeds, legumes, root crops, seeds) and their processed value-added products. This program requires confronting constraints on integrating smallholder farmers (male and female), producer cooperatives, and agribusiness enterprises with market-based value chains from seed to end-user.



The PHL Innovation Lab has been busy traveling to the target countries, establishing collaborative contacts and beginning their assessments in-country.

### Bangladesh Inception Workshop

On June 3, Al Schmidley and the Bangladesh team hosted an inception workshop at the BRAC Center, Mohakhali, Dhaka to inform the local stakeholders about the PHL Innovation Lab and to begin to build some partnerships. Government officials, scientists and teachers from the Bangladesh Agricultural University attended the workshop.

### Ethiopia Team Update

Dr. Bhadriraju Subramanyam and Dr. Venkat Reddy from Kansas State University and Dr. Rizana Mahroof from South Carolina State University visited Ethiopia during April 25 - May 4, 2014.





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The team was hosted by Mekelle University in-country coordinating partner, who accompanied the team to various smallholder farmer sites and to the research centers. The team met and had productive discussions with representatives from the Integrated Seed Sector Development, Ministry of Agriculture-Government of Ethiopia, Agricultural Transformation Agency, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, ACDI/VOCA, ICRISAT, Holetta, Kulumsa Agricultural Research Centers, Amhara Agricultural Research Institute, Bahirdar University, and Sesame Business Network. In addition, the team had opportunities to interact with a few industry partners such as GrainPro Inc., NAS Foods P.L.C., and with the Feed the Future team leader in the USAID Mission office. The trip helped the team better understand and appreciate post-harvest loss issues and existing strategies for mitigating losses. We were told that post-harvest losses were in the range of 15-17% in sesame and corn, but these losses do not take into account losses due to molds and insects. Post-harvest protection

Team members visit to underground storage sites in Golesha, South Tigray.

research in Ethiopia started in late 198

0s and several post-harvest loss reduction technologies have been tested at smallholder farmer



An underground storage pit for sorghum.

level. There is an urgent need to implement new and novel post-harvest loss reduction technologies in Ethiopia.

The subcontract for Mekelle University has been finalized, and the post-harvest baseline survey document is currently being reviewed by in-country coordinators. The Kansas State University and South Carolina State University team plans to go on a second trip to Ethiopia this year during later part of July.

## Ghana Team's 1st Assessment Trip

A two-week in-country assessment of post-harvest losses in the Ghana maize value chain was conducted in the Middle Belt of the country by ten experts in post-harvest engineering technology and stored-products protection from four different U.S. Land-Grant Universities (Oklahoma State University, Kansas State University, Fort Valley State University, and University of Kentucky); the USDA-ARS Center for Grain and Animal Health Research (CGAHR), and Vestergaard Frandsen (Switzerland). The assessment covered the period May 17-30, 2014. The team assessed current grain handling and



pest management tactics, stored-product insect activity and post-harvest grain losses in on-farm storage and in small-, medium-, and large-scale storage warehouses in Ghana with the ultimate goal of identifying areas of research in post-harvest loss that are perceived "critical control points" where breakthroughs in research and development could lead to significant improvements in food security. All important stakeholders in the maize value chain (smallholder farmers, government, the private sector, non-governmental institutions, research institutions, universities, etc.) were visited as part of the PHL assessment in the Middle Belt of Ghana. For a brief summary of the findings of the assessment, the full document can be found on K-State Online.

## Guatemala Update

The end of May Dr. Carlos Campabadal, Kansas State University and Dr. Andreia Bianchini,

University of Nebraska - Lincoln, traveled for the second time to Guatemala to discuss the proposed project for reduction of post-harvest loss with in-country collaborators. Their first day in the country was spent in two very productive meetings with USAID mission officers in Guatemala and potential collaborators at the Universidad del Valle - Guatemala (UVG). At USAID potential collaboration with ongoing efforts to improve the nutritional profile of the population in target regions was discussed. The mission has some recently acquired data that perhaps could be shared and may be helpful in eventually measuring impact of post-harvest technologies implemented in these regions. The meeting with UVG was mostly important to define how this local University could help our efforts in the country by providing on-site sample analysis. Several faculty and staff participated in the meeting, including Dr. Rolando Cifuentes Velasquez - Director of the Center for Agricultural and Forestry Studies. An agreement with UVG is under discussion regarding types of analysis and number of samples to be processed by them during this initial phase of the project (baseline). The last two days in the country were spent with staff from SHARE - the in-country non-governmental organization that is supporting the project in Guatemala. The two day meeting was very productive. The budget and contract for the project were discussed, along with the survey tool and design of sample collection to best define the baseline for any future post-harvest technology that may be implemented in the regions of interest. During the discussion around building the baseline, much emphasis was given to address issues regarding gender participation and nutrition of the population. The next visit to Guatemala has been scheduled in August, when training sessions for surveyors and field technicians will be conducted, so the actual data collection can shortly follow.

### **Training on "How to Work with USAID"**

USAID has created a virtual training program to provide some practical tools to make it easier to

work with them. The training series is available at <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/trainings-how-work-usaid>.

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