



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# REDUCING FOOD LOSS THROUGH IMPROVED POST-HARVEST MANAGEMENT IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia loses a significant amount of food due to poor post-harvest management practices and technology. A post-harvest loss assessment conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2017 in four major producing regions of the country indicated that the average post-harvest loss of cereals and pulses ranges from 25 to 35 percent. For this reason, the Government of Ethiopia sought assistance from FAO to strengthen post-harvest management and storage practices as a means of combatting post harvest losses.

This project built upon the results of a Phase I project, GCP/ETH/084/SWI. The Phase II project focused on maize, wheat, sorghum, haricot and fava beans, as well as chickpeas, and was implemented in the five regional states of the country: South Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia, Oromia, Amhara and Sidama.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project contributed to improved post-harvest management in Ethiopia by mitigating a series of challenges faced by both smallholder farmers and government institutions.

Government stakeholders benefited from capacity building, the promotion of technologies and policy advocacy activities, which led to post-harvest management becoming a key national priority. In addition, the government endorsed a post-harvest management strategy, the first of its kind in the country. Other significant results at national level were the establishment of the Ethiopian Society of Post Harvest Management and a post-harvest management platform. The incorporation of post-harvest management into the curricula of Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) institutes was another key achievement.

A total of 156 100 smallholder farmers adopted improved post-harvest management strategies, including the utilization of metal silos and hermetic bags, which eliminated the need to use chemical pesticides in grain storage. Thirty-three percent of the above-mentioned smallholders were women. Many of these women saw their workloads decrease thanks to the introduction of these new storage practices. Youth artisans also benefited from the project, owing to the jobs that were created for the construction of metal silos.

The FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) drew from the project results and lessons learned in the drafting of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Regional Postharvest Loss Management Strategy (IGAD-PHLMs), which was endorsed by the Ministers of Eastern Africa.

## KEY FACTS

### Latest Approved Budget

USD 2 908 726

### Duration

September 2018–August 2024

### Resource Partners

Government of Switzerland through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

### Partners

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA),  
Regional Bureaus of Agriculture,  
Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural  
Research (EIAR)

### Beneficiaries

Government institutions, smallholder  
farmers and youth artisans

# IMPACT

The project results are expected to enhance food security, nutrition and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Ethiopia by reducing post-harvest crop losses.



# ACTIVITIES

- Improved post-harvest management technologies and storage practices were scaled up.
- Awareness, knowledge and skills increased among smallholder farmers and other key actors on post-harvest management and household grain storage.
- Market linkages were created between artisans and smallholder farmers for the sale of metal silos.
- Policy advocacy for the promotion of good practices in post-harvest management was carried out effectively at regional and national level.
- Institutional structures and capacity were strengthened to support post-harvest management of grain and pulses.



## Project Title

Support to Reducing Food Losses through Improved Post Harvest Management Practices in Ethiopia (Phase II)

## Project Code

FAO: GCP/ETH/099/SWI

## Contact

FAO Representation in Ethiopia  
[FAO-ET@fao.org](mailto:FAO-ET@fao.org)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Partnerships and Outreach  
For more information, please contact: [Reporting@fao.org](mailto:Reporting@fao.org)

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution - 4.0 International licence ([CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)).