



Postharvest Loss Management and Gender Equity

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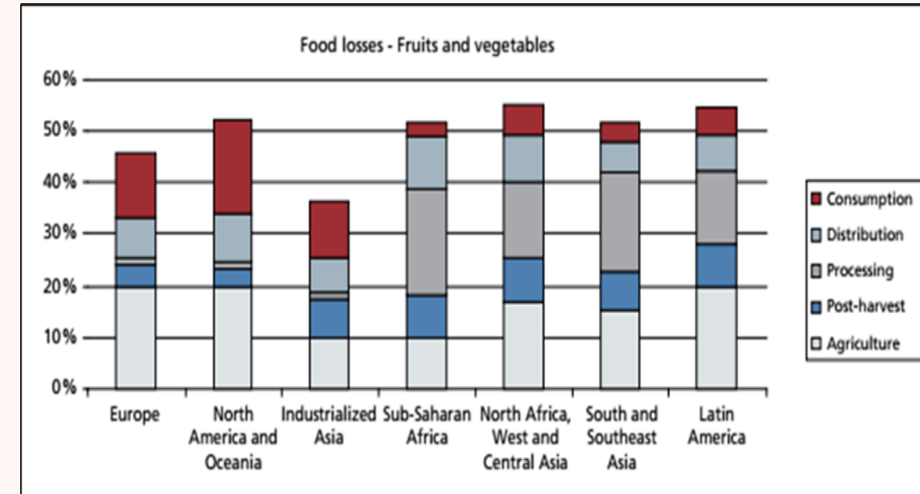


Postharvest Losses



- Every year nearly **13.2 %** of food is lost between harvest and the retail market
- Valued at approximately **US\$ 400 billion**

- Highest losses in the **Fruit and Vegetables group** @ 31.15 %
- High perishability
- **Few intervention** strategies compared to cereals and pulses



- Significant and evident in **all parts of the world** and at **all stages of the supply chain**

Impact of Postharvest losses



SDG 12.3



SDG 2.1, 2.2,
2.3, 2.4

- > **3.1 billion** can't afford healthy diets
- **828 million** undernourished
- **149 million** children <5 years stunted



- **Environment** - Resources used and GHG
- **Economic** – Reduced return on investment
- **Social** – Impede social progress

Why address gender?

1. Women are highly involved in postharvest stages of food value chains
2. Gender likely impacts postharvest loss
3. Gender also impacts the adoption of PHL reduction technologies
4. Gender data gaps exist related to PHL



Women Participation



- Active across the latter stages of food value chains, from **on-farm processing to retail**
- The responsibilities of women do differ by **country and crop**

West Africa:

- 83 % - food processing and 72 % - food marketing
- 80 to 90 % - informal retail marketing
- Usually less represented in wholesale and formal retail sector

Women Participation

- **Harvesting and threshing for rice:** In Bangladesh, women may provide 5% of the labor, while in Assam, India, women provide up to 60%
- **Other postharvest activities:** Bangladesh women provide 51% of the labor, while women in Assam provide 90%.
- In Cambodia, women may provide 40% of the labor input for postharvest activities
- In majority of Low- and Middle-Income Countries postharvest operations such as **processing, handling, and storage** are principally carried out by women



Gender Impact on PHL and Technology Adoption



- Less access to the **information and skills** than men – for loss mitigation and adoption of new technologies
- **Land ownership and financial freedom** also typically lags far behind that of men - less willing or able to invest in equipment or practices
- Concentrated in the more **perishable crop** value chains – high PHL
- **Technologies with drudgery** - suitable for men to operate

Gender Impact on PHL and Technology Adoption

- Technology adoption – different effects due to gender roles and dynamics

E.g., Adoption of metal silos for maize storage

Kenya - reduced labour **burdens** and improved **health** with less chemicals

Zimbabwe - decrease women's **time** use for maize cleaning

Zambia - women lose traditional role of **controlling household stocks**

Tanzania - disempowering for women, as men who deposited the crops in the warehouse was given information about the stock



Strategies to Ensure Gender Equity in PHL Management



Planning

- Considering gender while planning
- Recognizing the regional context
- Participatory research methods
- Conducting a barrier analysis

Strategies to Ensure Gender Equity in PHL Management

Implementation

- Providing **training and support**
- Ensuring **access** to resources and services
- Approaching women's **groups**
- Including men in training
- Training in **agribusiness** models and business development
- Developing and distributing **appropriate technologies**





Thank you

Resources used

- Kenney, G. Women and Postharvest Loss, ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss, USA
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