

## **Enhancing food security in Ethiopia through reduction of postharvest losses and food wastes**

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### **Abstract:**

Postharvest losses are one of the major problems faced by developing countries, particularly in small-scale farms, leading to hunger and food insecurity. To minimize postharvest losses and reduce food wastes, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Post Harvest Reduction Lab is being established in one of the “deep dive” Feed the Future country; Ethiopia. This initiative is to begin with, targeting on reducing postharvest losses in corn, wheat, chickpea and sesame and aiming to work with small-scale farmers, farm cooperative members, farm enterprises and agribusiness enterprises. Interventions under this 5-year funded project is to build capacity in Ethiopia to improve drying conditions, handling, storage, pest management, transportation, grading, and marketing to increase quantity and quality of grains, legumes, oilseeds and seeds. The Alliance working in Ethiopia represents US and Ethiopian institutions and organizations, consisting of experts in postharvest grain, food safety and quality, stored product preservation and protection, processing of value added products and extension & engagement. In the first year of the program, the Alliance is devoting time to conduct a value chain assessment in Ethiopia by taking a system approach to evaluate postharvest issues looking at how on-farm activities relate to other entities and operations within the overall food production chain. In this paper, the Alliance is aiming to present a summary of the first year work accomplishments completed in Ethiopia by the team.

Keywords: postharvest losses