

SAGCOT Kicks Off Study to Enhance Technology Adoption for Minimizing Post-Harvest Losses



From left to right, seated: Prof. Valerian C.K. Silayo (Sokoine University of Agriculture), Prof. Joseph P. Hella (Sokoine University of Agriculture), Mr. Albin Massawe (SAGCOT Centre Ltd), Mr. Prudence Lugendo (SAGCOT Centre Ltd), and Dr. John S. Lugole (Sokoine University of Agriculture). Standing are enumerators. The SAGCOT team gathered for a training session at Sokoine University of Agriculture on July 11, 2024, as part of the USAID Tuhifadhi Chakula (Let's Save Food) project to reduce post-harvest losses in Tanzania

SAGCOT Kicks Off Study to Enhance Technology Adoption for Minimizing Post-Harvest Losses

Identifying and promoting effective technological solutions to reduce post-harvest losses (PHL) and understanding the root causes of PHL through in-depth research is vital for Tanzania's agriculture. This effort is part of the broader USAID Tuhifadhi Chakula (Let's Save Food) project, implemented by SAGCOT Centre Ltd and the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA).

Training Enumerators for Data Collection

On July 11, 2024, SAGCOT's survey team conducted a training session for enumerators at the Institute of Pest Management at Sokoine University of Agriculture. This training equipped the enumerators with the skills to gather crucial insights into current post-harvest practices and the challenges farmers face in the maize, rice, and common bean value chains. The data they collect will ultimately contribute to identifying and promoting effective storage technologies and a deeper understanding of the root causes of post-harvest loss.

Identifying Cost-Effective Solutions for Farmers

"A Study on the Identification of Post-Harvest Loss (PHL) Technologies and Adoption Barriers in the Maize, Rice, and Common Beans Value Chains," aims to identify cost-effective and accessible solutions for farmers. Focusing on these staple crops, the study addresses the root causes of post-harvest losses, significantly impacting food security and farmer livelihoods in Tanzania.

Improving Food Security and Farmer Incomes

The ultimate goal of this initiative is to improve food security and enhance farmers' incomes by reducing post-harvest losses. By identifying and promoting appropriate technologies, the project empowers farmers to preserve their harvests, increase their yields, and improve their overall well-being.

Commitment to Reducing Post-Harvest Losses

During the training, Prof. Joseph P. Hella (Team Leader) and Mr. John S. Lugole from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), along with Mr. Albin Massawe and Mr. Prudence Lugendo representing SAGCOT, expressed a strong commitment to reducing post-harvest losses and enhancing food security in Tanzania.

USAID Tuhifadhi Chakula (Let's Save Food) project

The USAID Tuhifadhi Chakula (Let's Save Food) project, a five-year initiative implemented by the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) in partnership with the SAGCOT, is dedicated to enhancing food security and livelihoods in Tanzania by reducing food loss and waste. This project aims to increase food security, improve livelihoods, create employment opportunities, and boost exports, particularly benefiting women and youth. The enumerator training program is essential for the project's success, as it focuses on identifying and effectively addressing post-harvest losses, a critical step toward achieving the project's overall goals.

National Post-Harvest Management Strategy

The National Post-Harvest Management Strategy (NPHMS) 2019-2029 says Tanzania experiences post-harvest losses averaging up to 40% of annual harvests for major cereals like maize, paddy, and sorghum, impacting food security and farmers' incomes. Addressing food waste is crucial for improving food security and reducing hunger, minimizing environmental impacts, and enhancing economic efficiency.