Concept Note of the Week of Action on Post harvest Management.

Theme: Enabling policies for PHM for grass root impact

Background

The Postharvest Management in Sub-Saharan Africa (PHM-SSA) is a project under the Global Programme Food Security (GPFS) of SDC coordinated by HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation (HSI) and implemented in a consortium with FANRPAN (Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network), AFAAS (African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services) and AGRIDEA. The goal of the project is to increase food security of smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa through reduced postharvest losses at farm and community level. The project duration is six years.

The project aims to improve food security (increased food self-sufficiency and incomes) of smallholder men and women farmers in SSA through reduction of postharvest losses of food crops (grains and pulses) by addressing major constraining factors of technology dissemination and adoption, knowledge and information sharing, rural advisory services (RAS) and policies related to PHM. The project has a regional focus and intervention logic, including pilot activities in Benin and Mozambique.

As part of the implementation of this project in Benin, FANRPAN engaged the services of two national consultants (Benin and Mozambique) to conduct a first study on post-harvest management (PHM) policies based on the following guidelines:

1. What is known on PHM policies and what are the gaps based on national, regional and international literature?
2. What are the current PHM related policies in the country?
3. What are current ongoing PHM development and research programme initiatives in the study country?
4. What are the national PHM institutional arrangements and key stakeholders in place?
5. What are the major gaps in the current PHM policies?
6. What is required to ensure that PHM policies are improved in terms of relevance and effectiveness

The second study on frameworks for food standards and norms related to post-harvest management of staple grains shown that in Benin, Post-harvest losses (PHLs) are largely compromising rural communities’ efforts to achieve a sustainable food security in SSA. Because of the place that cereals and legumes occupy among the staple food in sub-Saharan Africa and in Benin, it is important to take actions to prevent food post-harvest losses and human health concerns such
as contamination with pesticide residues used to control crop pests and storage, and fungal toxins that contaminate maize during pre and post-harvest periods. Recently, from 2010 to 2012, efforts have been undertaken to improve the system by creating new frameworks. Nevertheless, Program initiatives on food standards related to PHM in Benin are still very weak or inexistent.

Recommendations from the dialogues held in Benin with the various stakeholders and the policy makers include:

✓ Disseminate information on the current situation of PHM
✓ Develop complementarities and synergies between the different structures involved in the food safety;
✓ Take action to promote PHM
✓ Strengthen political dialogue around the updating of the agricultural policy;
✓ Create and animate online forum on PHM regulatory frameworks;
✓ Make available and in appropriate local languages for consumers, standards and texts on the PHM

It is hence aiming at increasing its outcomes that PASCiB, as FANRPAN Benin node organizes the week of action for the promotion of post harvest management.

Objectives of the Week of Action on PHM;

To raise awareness of key stakeholders on PHM
Capacitate the stakeholders on PHM
Reward the champions and motivate others to support PHM

Expected results

The expected results of the week are:

☑ Attention on post-harvest management, drawn through a multi-media campaign (radio show, brochure, televised debates, invitation to the news etc.)

☑ 3 dialogues to transfer PHM technologies are organized including one in Boukoumbé, one in Savalou and a national one in Cotonou

☑ 2 open house days are organized on PHM

☑ A technical workshop on integrating PHM aspects in the regulatory frameworks on food standards is organized

☑ A position paper is adopted and published

☑ A press conference is held at the end of the week

☑ FANRPAN activities are spread

☑ The champions in post-harvest management are recognized

Key activities
Holding workshop, pre-conference
Radio program, brochure, television debates, invitation to the news, etc.

During this week, a radio program will be organized in a broadcast house to talk of post harvest management. Farmers with good PHM practices will be invited during these shows to share with listeners.

Such televised debate will also be negotiated with broadcasting institution to engage with PHM actors

**Dialogues**
The dialogues will be held in Boukoumbé and Savalou which are the pilot areas of the project and another national dialogue will be organized in Cotonou by the end of the week

**Open House Days on PHM**
These are two open days to inform the population on PHM, of exhibitions and presentation of available technologies, dissemination of the results of 2 studies already made.