

APHLIS is to be commended for helping countries become more food-secure.

Senior research officer, Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute



User perspectives on APHLIS

APHLIS helps countries measure and monitor postharvest losses.

Image by CIAT

The African Postharvest Losses Information System – APHLIS – is the leading international effort to collect, analyze and disseminate data on postharvest losses in sub-Saharan Africa. APHLIS provides researchers, practitioners and policy-makers with valuable information on postharvest losses using a cost-efficient approach that enables them to focus on crops, areas and activities where interventions will have the most impact.

“Donors and development partners need guidance on how to support country efforts to mitigate loss. APHLIS data helps us to put together a case for interventions to mitigate postharvest loss, both directly and at a systemic level.”

Country manager, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

APHLIS postharvest loss estimates are available at www.aphlis.net

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How APHLIS works

APHLIS develops postharvest loss profiles that quantify expected losses at each point along the postharvest chain. Loss metrics include percentage loss, dry weight loss (in tonnes), financial value of loss and the nutritional value of the postharvest losses, as well as the nutritional and financial impacts of the losses on people and economies. Loss profiles draw on academic research and are enriched with information on local conditions and practices that may affect losses on a seasonal or annual basis; this includes weather, pest incidence, and length of on-farm storage. APHLIS network members collect this data from official sources and conduct interviews with farmers and extension workers.

APHLIS estimates losses at the provincial and national levels, information that would be prohibitively expensive to obtain through direct observation and measurement.

“We use APHLIS data to target policymakers directly. Determining where losses occur along the value chain helps us to decide where to make interventions. Gathering all that data ourselves would be massively time consuming and expensive. And using data from an independent source adds legitimacy.”

Senior policy officer, One Acre Fund, Kenya

“APHLIS is a valuable source of information for scientists in sub-Saharan Africa. We use APHLIS data in our research. It can also be used to raise awareness of the magnitude of losses in various countries.”

Professor, Department of Agriculture, University of Maidugari, Nigeria

New crops

APHLIS has expanded the range of crops covered by the system from its traditional focus on cereals to include pulses (common bean, groundnut, and cowpea), roots and tubers (cassava, yam and sweet potato), and banana and plantain. This involves creating

postharvest loss profiles for the new crops and enlarging the APHLIS network of regional experts.

"I found all of the figures I needed for my research in APHLIS. The data was very useful and easy to understand. There is nowhere else to get this kind of information."

Ph.D. student, University of Zimbabwe

"I use APHLIS often to keep myself up to date. I am involved in a lot of training for farmers and value chain actors and I find that APHLIS information enriches my training. The infographics on the website are fantastic. When you are training farmers, it helps if they can see as well as listen."

Programme officer, Go Organic, Uganda

Improved modelling and alerts

We are strengthening our approach to data gathering and adopting better modelling techniques. This will allow APHLIS to produce more detailed and accurate loss estimates. It also enables us to generate risk warnings, in particular concerning aflatoxin contamination due to drought stress. These warnings are available on the APHLIS website as maps and alerts.

"I find APHLIS very useful and interesting. I like the transparency of the data. I like the links to the references and the fact that access is free. I like the options for the country tables and that you can make your own choice of crops, regions and years. The addition of information on nutritional losses is important for many users."

Coordinator, MACS-G20

“My experience with APHLIS has been very interesting and rewarding. We use APHLIS information to determine whether postharvest management techniques are working and to assess their impact. This helps us understand where we need to concentrate our research.”

Senior research officer, Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute

A vital information resource

APHLIS generates loss estimates to support policy and decision-making around postharvest losses. As an information hub, APHLIS serves a wide agricultural and development audience and is a critical resource for anyone concerned with sustainable agricultural production.