2016 Integrated Nutrition Conference

Where Is My Food? Partnering with the Private Sector to Tackle Post-harvest Food Loss

faith. action. results.
Why CRS promotes PICS bag technology?

- Simple low-cost hermetic storage technology
- No pesticides use and resultant food chemical poisoning
- Reduces growth of fungi and aflatoxins in stored food grain
- Maintains nutritional & germination quality of food grain and seed
- Longer shelf life & farmers’ ability to sell when prices are favorable

CRS Tanzania PICS3 Project Overview

- Piloted PICS bags with 17,020 farmers in 3,406 villages & 42 districts
- Created awareness & demonstrated use of PICS bags to 450,017 farmers
- Trained farmers in the use of hermetic triple-layered PICS storage bags
PICS Project Approach

- CRS implemented the project (March 1, 2015-Feb 29, 2016) through local partners that built capacity of local authority extension staff and farmers on PICS bag technology
- Purdue University trained government extension agents on PICS technology
- Media (Radio Maria, Radio 5, TBC & Radio free Africa) created awareness of farmers on PICS bag technology and OBCs

Agricultural Research Institutions carried out local research to adapt and improve the PICS bag technology

Pee Pee (Tanzania) Ltd (PPTL) – sole manufacturer trained agro-dealer vendors to distribute PICS bags to farmers
Project Challenges

- Selling price variation of up to US$3 among suppliers, with a price range of $2-5 per PICS bag
- Inefficient supply chain as some vendors are located in towns and fail to supply some project sites
- Value-added tax (VAT) increases price of PICS bags
- Farmers are calling for a Government subsidy equivalent to at least the VAT amount on the price of a PICS bag
- Imitations and fake PICS bags pose a threat to the technology
Project Results and Lessons Learned

Results

• The project sold 193,679 PICS bags to 31,736 farmers in one year (to-date about 900,000 bags sold)
• Farmers used the PICS bags for storing maize, beans, cowpeas, dried cassava, wheat, etc
• PPTL trained 73 agro-vendors to distribute PICS bags to farmers across the country

Lessons Learned

Involvement of local government leadership highly contributes to the adoption of the PICS bag technology by farmers

OBCs help to create demand for PICS bags
The wide acceptance of PICS bags among farmers is an important step towards reduced post-harvest food loss that leading to improved food security, nutrition and increased income for smallholder farmers
PICS Project Recommendations

CRS continues to promote savings & internal savings communities (SILC) that increases purchasing power of farmers to buy PICS bags

Link vendors to financial institutions

Farmers continue to organize and lobby for removal of VAT on the bags

Purdue University considers increasing the number of manufacturers to build competition that lowers price of PICS bag to the farmer

Stakeholders experiment with quality assurance systems against imitations and fake PICS bags in the market