



# Annual Impact Report 2025

**ADMI** Institute for the Prevention  
of Postharvest Loss  
University of Illinois



# 2025 REPORT CONTENTS & IMPACTS TO DATE

Page 1: Impacts to Date

Page 2: Letter from the Director

Pages 3 - 5: Updates by Country

- Philippines
- Vietnam
- Cameroon
- Angola
- Indonesia
- Sierra Leone

Page 6: Online Education

Page 7: Affiliated Faculty

Page 8: PHL Interns

Page 10: Acknowledgements

More than

**91**

projects funded  
through ADMI awards

engaging more than

**63**

faculty at University of Illinois  
and international universities

resulting in

**110**

research papers  
published in peer-  
reviewed journals





**36,208**

smallholder farmers directly trained in postharvest loss prevention technologies, practices, and food security issues

**49%**

of trainees are women farmers

Impacting members of

**300**

farmer producer organizations



**Over 40,770**

hermetic bags distributed directly to smallholder farmers

**235**

small-scale grain dryers developed and set up in Bangladesh and India, reaching more than **4,500** smallholder farmers



**152**

local entrepreneurs trained in fabrication, maintenance or use of postharvest equipment

**464**

civil servants, extension workers and community workers trained in postharvest management





## **A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR - 2025 BRINGS CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

“It has been a turbulent year for those of us doing international work. Due to ongoing support from private sources and passionate staff and partners, we have been able to build on our large body of experience towards reducing postharvest losses around the world as well as add some new projects.

Specifically, the YouthTeams approach has shown improved awareness and adoption of new extension and outreach practices while building confidence, empathy, and empowerment in the university students.

We look forward to continuing our work around the world during 2026.”

PAUL MCNAMARA, ADMI DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSUMER ECONOMICS, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## UPDATES BY COUNTRY - THE PHILIPPINES



During November, the ADMI team worked with two partners in The Philippines, Sigay Kauyagan and Mindanao State University (MSU), to train more than 20 interns (YouthTeams) who will conduct community outreach on soil health and preventing postharvest loss in villages in the Polomolok area.

The YouthTeams are translating instructional videos into local languages and developing training materials before traveling to 25-30 villages to conduct a rapid assessment of current soil management and postharvest practices. After the assessment, the YouthTeams, working in small groups, will conduct educational sessions for families in the villages.

This project has been funded by ADM Cares.

### VIETNAM

Through a seed grant from the International Academic Partnership Program to strengthen ties between American and Vietnamese universities, ADMI is building a partnership with Can Tho University and The Mekong Delta Development Research Institute at Can Tho University. Students and young agricultural extension workers will be trained on reducing postharvest losses, gender equity in scaling technologies, and facilitating farmer discussions. Trainees will then visit farming communities for outreach and data collection.

### CAMEROON

As a learning partner with Nascent Solutions LLC, ADMI is working on a multi-year video project to improve the school feeding program. Our new interns will be helping to update the nutrition curriculum and create animated educational videos.

### ANGOLA

ADMI is the learning partner on a school feeding project implemented by World Vision that will improve nutrition and education for 80,000 students over the next four years. We will be conducting research on local procurement, socio-economic indicators of child malnutrition, and program sustainability. We are seeking additional funding to add a component on off-grid postharvest cooling chambers.

### INDONESIA

The ADMI team worked with IPB University in Bogor, Java to scale out a program of extension strengthening to support the needs of female-led farmer groups. Female farmer groups have the potential to empower women and contribute to household income, but extension workers lack the skill to meet the unique needs of these groups. An additional 51 extension workers from West Java were trained to facilitate discussions on goal setting, creating a business plan, and promoting gender equity in farmer groups. The training has so far been scaled out to 75 additional farmer groups, bringing the total to 147 female-led farmer groups representing 3675 members. A nutrition educator is also working with a subset of the farmer groups to improve the nutrition and safety of the products produced and sold.



## YouthTeams

In January 2025, the U. of I. partnered with Njala University in Sierra Leone to facilitate a training program for a team of students (Njala U and Illinois) that included field experience in post-harvest loss prevention. The newly trained YouthTeams then mobilized to communities to deliver videos and demonstrations.

Thirty-two Njala University students, faculty, and staff and 12 Illinois students participated in the training, specifically covering hermetic storage basics, PICS bags, extension principles, and pico projectors. Further, they were trained on how to conduct a 2.5 hour community extension event. After showing PHL videos in the local language, the students learned how to facilitate discussions and promote improved storage for grains and legumes. The YouthTeams then deployed to 19 villages in Moyamba District to train and demonstrate improved storage solutions, reaching over 600 farmers. In each village, a PICS bag was left with a local farmer to help demonstrate improved hermetic storage for rice, maize, soya, groundnuts, and other crops.

## Solar Drying

At the Postharvest Hub at Njala University in Sierra Leone, an ADMI sponsored research team is designing and testing a prototype of a simple solar dryer that can improve the drying process and reduce postharvest losses. The key design features will include insulation, a transparent cover for solar gain, and enhanced airflow and control mechanisms.



The team will conduct a series of evaluation experiments to compare the results with traditional drying methods and analyze the economic feasibility of the solar dryer. Ultimately the design can be recommended to development partners in Sierra Leone for dissemination to smallholder farmers.

## COURSERA - GLOBAL POSTHARVEST LOSS PREVENTION: FUNDAMENTALS, TECHNOLOGIES, AND ACTORS

This online course provides an overview of postharvest loss of grains by exploring essential physical, technical, and social dimensions of postharvest supply chains and loss prevention methods globally. Enroll at <https://www.coursera.org/learn/postharvest>.

- **Free**
- **Beginner level**
- **Flexible schedule**
- **4.7/5 stars from 43 ratings**

	<b>-2025-</b>	<b>-Total-</b>
<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>11,451</b>
<b>Completed</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>1495</b>

## WORLD FOOD PRIZE SIDE EVENT

ADMI Director Paul McNamara spoke as part of a panel at the annual World Food Prize Symposium in Des Moines, Iowa.

This panel event focused on “Benefits of International Collaborations to U.S. Agriculture and Farmers.”





## **PABLO TORRES AGUILAR**

Dr. Torres is an assistant professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition in the College of ACES. His research is driven by the goal of promoting food and nutrition security among veterans and military connected families at a local and regional level; as well as vulnerable communities internationally.



## **SAMANTHA LINDGREN**

Dr. Lindgren is an assistant professor in the Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership in the College of Education. Her research focuses on sustainability education, including environmental education and education for sustainable development, for women and youth and its impact on decision-making in the home, both in the United States and abroad.



## **AMIR MALVANDI**

Dr. Malvandi is an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering in the College of ACES. His research focuses on the development of intelligent systems aimed at reducing post-harvest losses through the application of advanced technologies and data-driven methodologies.



## **MATTHEW STASIEWICZ**

Dr. Stasiewicz is an associate professor of Applied Food Safety in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition in the College of ACES. His work uses risk assessment and innovative laboratory methods to advance food safety microbiology.



## ANNE MARIE CICCONE

Anne Marie Ciccone is a senior majoring in Dietetics and Human Nutrition. As a Food Security Intern, she is developing nutrition curriculum for primary school children in Cameroon and supporting school garden initiatives to strengthen nutrition knowledge, dietary practices, and community well-being.



## JULIE KIM

Julie Kim is a senior majoring in Nutrition and Health. As an AgReach intern, she develops evidence-based nutrition education for pregnant and lactating women in Cameroon, addressing maternal and infant health outcomes through global health and food security initiatives.



## AZHURA VIANDRA

Azhura Viandra is a junior majoring in Developmental Psychology with a passion for education and child development. As an AgReach intern, she supports the Cameroon School Feeding Project by refining the nutrition lesson plans from a pedagogical perspective to make them developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant for Cameroonian elementary students.

**ADMI STAFF**

**Director:** Paul McNamara

**Associate Director:** Anna Snider

**Communications Coordinator:** Leslie Myrick

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT**

ADMI was established in 2011 with a gift from the Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) Company to the University of Illinois in order to promote research, outreach, education, and capacity building to reduce postharvest losses in grains and oilseeds and enhance global food security and environmental sustainability. Continued support from ADM Cares, the social responsibility arm of ADM, is gratefully acknowledged.

**CONTACT US**

1301 W. Gregory Dr.  
60 Mumford Hall  
Urbana IL 61801

+1 217-333-5115

[postharvestinstitute@illinois.edu](mailto:postharvestinstitute@illinois.edu)



**College of Agricultural,  
Consumer &  
Environmental Sciences**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN