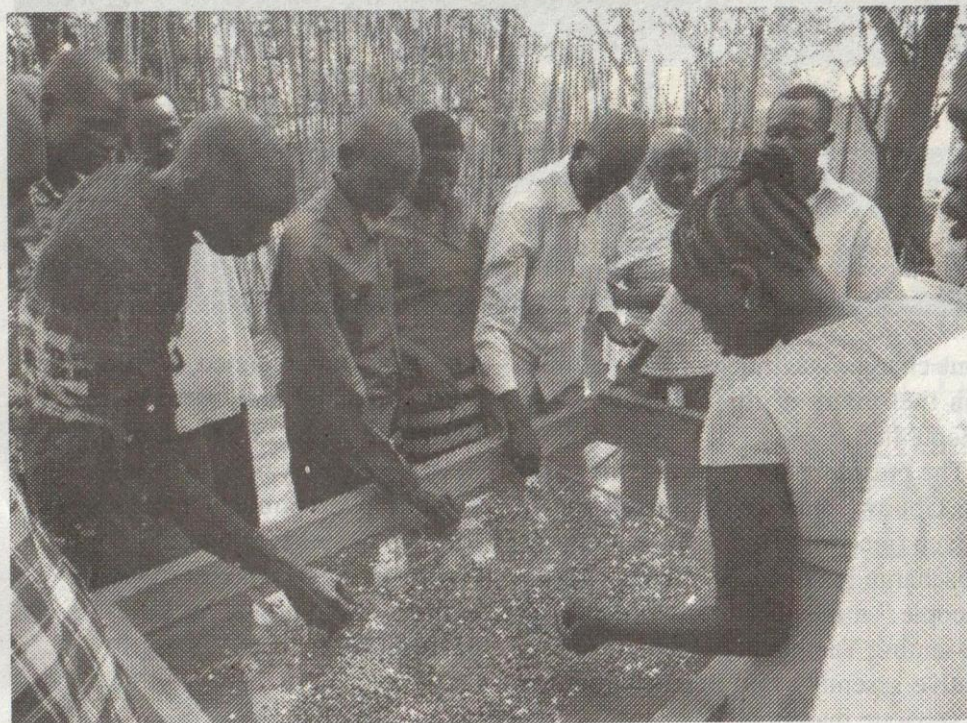


weekend that they warmly welcome the national dialogue President Salva well have achieved something more substantial," he said. have expressed concerns over the escalation of violence, warning of genocide in the country," he said.

UNIDO addressing Post Harvest Food Loss Problem in the Greater Bahr El Ghazal Region

PRESS RELEASE

Global food production has reached a record high in recent years. However, nearly one-third of the all food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted and post harvest food loss is one of the main cause for food insecurity for millions families across the world. Food losses happen at every stage of the supply chain as commodities get damaged, spoiled or lost while harvested, handled, processed, stored and transported. Post harvest food loss is one of the major contributing factors to food insecurity and under nutrition directly impacting the lives of millions of poor, small holder farming families in South Sudan. Due to inadequate handling and storage practices at the house hold level, within the first three months after harvest, farmers lose up to 40% of their harvest to insects, pests, mould and moisture. Whereas simple and affordable steps



like proper drying, improving storage and marketing infrastructure and adopting best post harvest practices can drastically reduce food losses and increase availability of food at household and local level. This also means improved food security and increase resilience to shocks for small holder farmers.

As part of its effort to support small holder farmers and agricultural market in South Sudan the European Union (EU) has launched a comprehensive rural development programme in South Sudan with a total budget of Euro 80.0 million to improved food security and income for rural smallholders in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region. Main goal of the Zonal Effort for agricultural Transformation - Bahr El Ghazal Effort for Agricultural Development (ZEAT- BEAD)

Continued on back page

This DAY

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Wednesday, December 21, 2016 - Vol. 2, Issue No. 314

UNIDO addressing Post Harvest Food Loss Problem in the Greater Bahr El Ghazal Region

Project is to improve food security and income of the rural small holders in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal (GBEG) region.

Under the ZEAT-BEAD Project, the overall objective of The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) action is to contribute to improved food security and income of the rural communities in the GBEG region by enhancing value addition, implementing value chain upgrading strategies and build capacity of actors involved in the value chain.

UNIDO has trained recently a total of 475 farmers from the 19 target villages in the GBEG region on improved on post harvest management and storage of food grains. In addition, UNIDO distributed 500 PICS bags and 200 metallic bins among the target farmers. Due to support from UNIDO under the ZEAT-BEAD Project in the GBEG region, target farmers will be able to significantly reduce their post harvest losses. By preserving gain quality and quantity through adopting best post harvest practices, farmers will not only have more food to eat but also more surplus to sell. In addition, they will be able to store crops longer and decide when to sell in order to fetch higher price.

Moreover, UNIDO in partnership with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) implemented a training of trainers (TOT) programme on Post Harvest Management and Storage of Food Grain Crops in Wau to train 32 agricultural officers and extension workers from the state ministry of agriculture and representatives from International NGOs working in the GBEG region like NRC, HARD, VSF-Germany and Concern Worldwide, etc. During the three days training participants learnt different aspects of post harvest handling and safe storage of food grain crops. Major topics covered during the training were harvesting process,

threshing practices, drying methods, cleaning and grading, principal causes of loss of quality and quantity, storage methods, marketing channels and benefits of collective marketing.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) project on "Enhanced Value Addition and Strengthening Value Chains in the Greater Bahr El Ghazal region, South Sudan" is funded by the European Union (EU) and it is part of the overall ZEAT-BEAD Project jointly implemented by UNIDO, UNOPS and GIZ. Main objectives of UNIDO action is developing and implementation of value chain upgrading strategies and capacity building of actors operating in the identified value chains in the GBEG region. UNIDO is focusing specifically on small household producers and private business owners to create a sustainable and simple marketing network by developing and implementation of upgrading value chain upgrading strategies. The commodities identified by UNIDO for upgrading value chains include sorghum, groundnut, rice, fish and leather (hide and skin). UNIDO is establishing four agro processing and training centers in the Greater Bahr El Ghazal region with modest facility for processing of sorghum, groundnut, rice and fish. In addition, UNIDO is building capacity of farmers and other stakeholders on post harvest management, storage and marketing of agricultural produce.

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