

Farmers' Perceptions of Rice Postharvest Losses in Eastern Uganda

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Abstract

The cross-sectional survey involving 83 farmers in focus group discussions and 150 individual interviews examined smallholder farmers' perceptions about postharvest losses (PHLs) in rice in Eastern Uganda. Principal component analysis and logistic regression were used to establish the determinants of farmers' perceived ability to reduce PHLs. Farmers perceive 66% of the losses occurred in the field-based activities of harvesting, heaping and threshing through spillage, while 34% occurred in the home-based activities of drying and storage. Quality deterioration was perceived to be highest at harvesting and drying stages. Farmers' perceived themselves least able to reduce PHLs at the stages where the losses were highest. These perceptions are significantly influenced farm size, awareness of the modes through which losses occur, proportions of rice sold and household characteristics. Interventions to reduce PHLs should intensify awareness and mindset change, commercialization of rice production, best-fit practices and technologies for smallholder farmers and collective action for groups of farmers to undertake some operations together.

Keywords: Smallholder farmer in Uganda, rice postharvest losses.

Introduction

Provision of food for the ever increasing world population is still a challenge (World Bank, 2011). In Sub-Saharan African (SSA), where countries are most at risk of food insecurity, efforts have been directed towards increasing agricultural production and productivity (Affognon et al., 2015; Nijbroek & Andleman, 2016). Nonetheless,

limited attention has been directed to the reduction of postharvest losses (PHL) especially in cereals (Hodges et al.,

2011; Affognon et al., 2015). For example, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2011) reports that in SSA, 13.5% of the total cereal production including rice is lost during postharvest handling and distribution. Yet rice feeds about half of the world's population (EUCORD, 2012). Accordingly, investing in PHL reduction is regarded as a quick impact intervention for enhancing food security (Affognon et al., 2015).

In Uganda, rice is among the priority cereal crops for household food and income security (National Development Plans II). Introduction of high yielding varieties (HYVs) such as New Rice for Africa (NERICA) has increased Uganda's production from 132,000 Metric tons in 2003 to 233,000 Metric tons of paddy rice by 2011 (FAO, 2014). However, high PHL in terms of quantity and quality remain a key challenge (Candia & Masette, 2012; MAAIF, 2012; Nakazi & Sserunkuuma, 2013). The farmer is the most affected with PHL through loss of quantity of rice available for food and income, and low prices for poor quality rice. Efforts to reduce PHL will only take root if the farmers perceive PHL as a problem that affects them and needs their attention.

Postharvest losses are an integrative phenomenon that results from farmers interacting with technologies/practices and the context in which they operate (World Bank, 2011; Kagbu et al., 2016) and perceptions are central to this phenomenon. In the context of this study, farmers' perceptions are defined as intrinsic factors such as attitudes, values and beliefs about PHLs that inform the willingness and ability to reduce the losses (Martin et al., 2014). This paper determines the farmers' perceptions about the magnitude and nature of PHLs as well as their ability to mitigate these losses. The study was informed by two research questions; viz; (i) how do farmers perceive the extent of PHL in terms of quantity and quality? and; (ii) what determines farmers' perceived ability to reduce such losses?

Theoretical framework

The study was anchored in the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) (Ajzen, 1991). The theory explains the drivers of human behaviors and actions as shaped by their perceptions. The theory argues that human behavior/actions are usually intentional and are determined by three elements; attitude towards the behavior, subjective norms and behavioral control beliefs. Attitude towards the behavior refers to the person's beliefs and values about the outcome of the behavior while the subjective norms are about the beliefs about what other people that the person considers important think s/he should do. The behavioral control beliefs concern the person's beliefs about his/her; ability to perform the behavior, access and control over resources needed to perform the behavior. Such control beliefs helped to guide the study to identify the farm and farmer characteristics to be assessed as predictors of farmers' perceived ability to reduce PHL.

The PHL especially on the farm result from farmer practices or behaviours, which are in conformity with their norms and belief in their capabilities to among other things reduce the losses. It therefore can be argued that what farmers do that leads to PHLs is intentional but farmers have good reasons for continuing to do that. This is based on what they perceive to be the extent of the losses and influenced by the opinions of the people they consider important in the community. Belief in their own potential to change behavior (practices) to reduce PHL will influence their search for and uptake of appropriate technologies.

Based on TPB, farmers who believe that the PHL significantly affects their livelihood in terms of food availability and income will have strong intention to take up new knowledge and technologies to reduce the losses (Rogers, 1995; Seline et al., 2015). Conversely, those who think PHL do not have significant impact on their livelihood are unlikely to want to change the status quo. The conviction that one can successfully undertake measures to reduce PHL is indicative of the readiness to change behavior and reduce PHLs. Consequently, ones' perceived ability (self-efficacy) will influence the use of practices and technologies to reduce PHLs. Self-efficacy refers to the conviction that given access and control to resources, one can successfully execute the behaviour required to produce an outcome; in this case PHL reduction (Ajzen, 1991).

Methodology

The study was conducted in Iganga and Namutumba districts in Eastern Uganda, which according to MAAIF (2011) are the leading producers of rice in the region. In addition, Eastern region accounts for 63% of the total weight grain loss of rice in Uganda (African Postharvest Loss Information System [APHLIS], 2012). Together, Iganga and Namutumba districts produce 30% of all the rice produced in Eastern Uganda. In the two districts, farmers grow a variety of food and cash crops. However, rice is a priority crop (Odogola, 2006; Tokida et al., 2014). A descriptive cross-sectional survey was conducted among rice farmers in the study districts to obtain their opinions on the perceived magnitude of the PHLs and the perceived ability to undertake measures to reduce the losses. Data from the survey was complemented by Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) aimed at obtaining collective opinions on the extent of PHLs and their control measures.

Four major rice-producing sub-counties within the study districts were purposively selected (Buyanga and Namalemba from Iganga district, Nsinze and Kibale from Namutumba district) for the study. With guidance from sub-county extension workers and local council chairpersons, four major rice producing villages were selected from each sub-county as the study sites. For each village, a list of rice growing farmers were generated by the village leaders as the sampling frame. The list comprised of 802 farmers that grew rice in the first season of 2015 in the four villages. Using villages as strata, a 5% proportionate stratified sampling strategy was employed to determine the number of farmers selected from each of the villages. Within each village, a simple random sampling strategy was employed and a sample of 150

farmers were selected to participate in the individual face-to-face semi-structured interviews.

First, nine focus group discussions were conducted to explore farmer perceptions towards the magnitude and how post-harvest losses occur and their reduction strategies. Eighty-three farmers (43 males and 40 females) were purposively selected to participate in the focus group discussion based on their knowledge and experience in rice production. The focus groups generated the items for the survey instrument. Semi-structured interviews were used to gather data including socio-demographic characteristics of the households; experience in rice production; access to markets and extension services; availability of labour for farm operations (labour was considered part-time if hired, otherwise it was full-time); extent of quality deterioration and grain damage at different stages; and ability to reduce the losses.

Farmers scored estimated grain loss through the different stages of post-harvest as follows; 0=Not at all, 1=Negligible/very low losses, 2= low losses, 3=High losses, 4=Very high losses. Quality deterioration through the post-harvest process was scored on a scale of 1 – 5 as follows; 1=No quality loss, 2=Very low quality loss, 3=Low quality loss, 4=High quality loss, and; 5=Very high quality loss. For each stage, an aggregate index for the perception on quality deterioration was estimated by the average score. A dichotomous score was used for farmers' perceived ability to reduce the losses at three critical stages of the post-harvest process namely, harvesting, threshing and drying. Here, a score of 1 indicated that farmer believed that they had the ability to reduce PHL and a score of zero meant that farmer believed they did not have the ability to reduce the PHL.

A panel of experts comprising of four scholars from Makerere University judged the content validity of the survey instrument appropriate for the research objectives. Prior to its use, the instrument was pre-tested for on 15 farmers from a sub-county (not included in survey) for reliability. A Spearman Brown coefficient of 0.8 for a test-retest reliability, affirming that the instrument was reliable.

The qualitative data from FGDs were subject to content analysis to synthesize the emergent issues. The qualitative information was used to provide additional explanations and anecdotal evidence to complement the quantitative data. Data from the survey were analyzed using Statistical Product for Service Solution (SPSS) version 16. Means were also used to generate the weighted average scores of the contributions of the different modes of physical grain loss and quality deterioration after harvest. Furthermore, a principal component analysis was run to identify the factors likely to influence farmer's perceived ability to reduce post-harvest losses. The principal component analysis was preferred as a data reduction technique to aggregate related variables together as principal component factors. The principal component factors were then treated as predictor variables and subjected to a logistic model analysis to determine the likelihood that a farmer will perceive himself/herself to have the capability to curb PHLs at the stages of harvesting, threshing and drying where the losses are considered highest. The model specification is as follows:

$$P(Y) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \dots + \beta_n X_n + \mu)}} \dots \dots \dots \text{Equation 1}$$

P(Y) is the probability of a farmer's perceived ability to reduce rice PHLs at harvesting, threshing and drying

X₁ to X_n are principal component factors (predictor variables) presumed to predict the probability of the farmer's perceived ability to reduce rice PHLs at harvesting, threshing and drying

β₀ is the Y-intercept

β₁ to β₆ are the coefficients (weights) attached to each of the predictors x₁ to x₆, where

X₁ = Modes of quality deterioration

X₂ = Modes of physical grain loss

X₃ = Utilization of rice in the household

X₄ = Labour availability on the farm

X₅ = Household characteristics

X₆ = Land for rice production

μ is the error term. The equation can also be simplified as illustrated below:

$$\ln \left[\frac{P(Y)}{1 - P(Y)} \right] = Z = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \dots + \beta_n X_n + \mu \dots \dots \dots \text{Equation 2}$$

Results and Discussion

Description of Respondents

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents whose average age was 42 years. The majority (61%) of the respondents were males and 39% were females. About 90% were from male headed households with implications on decision making. About 56% of the respondents could access credit to cater for costs related to postharvest.

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

Socio-demographic characteristics	Percentage (n=150)	Mean	Standard Deviation
Gender of male farmers??	60.67		
Male headed households	90.00		
Access to credit for rice production	56.00		
Off farm income	36.00		
Age (years)		41.87	12.39
No of years spent in education		6.08	3.3
Total land cultivated (acres)		4.20	2.80
Total land allocated to rice (acres)		1.40	0.73
Household size		8.83	3.32
Full time HH members		2.70	1.82
Part time HH members		3.63	2.86
Paddy rice production per acre (Kgs)		943.0	535.0
Proportion of rice sold (%)		70.5	19.9
Distance to Mill (Km)		1.87	1.64
Number of channels used to receive extension advice		3.48	1.54
Experience in rice production (years)		16.7	10

Source: Household survey 2015

The majority (89%) of the respondents attained some formal education and 11% had no formal education. On average, a household cultivated 4.2 acres and of this, 1.4 acres (35%) were for rice. The mean household size was nine which nearly doubles the national average of 4.7 (See UBOS, 2014). Large household size also implies higher demand for food and other needs. On average, farmers produced about 943 kilograms of rice per acre. This yield is close to the national average of 1000 kilograms per acre (Elepu & Dalipagic, 2014). The distance to the nearest mill was almost half of the 3.5km reported by Nakazi and Sserunkuuma (2013) though in different districts in the same region. The farmers on average had accessed agricultural knowledge from three channels mainly radio, extension workers and demonstrations

Perceived Magnitude of Post-Harvest Losses

Farmers estimated what they perceived to be the postharvest losses at the various stages both in the field and at home. The field-based stages include; harvesting, heaping and threshing, while the home-based stages were drying, winnowing and storage. Table 2 represents the perceived losses at the different stages.

Table 2: Perceived proportion of losses in rice at different stages of post harvest

Stages	Perceived proportion of losses (%)
Harvesting	30.99
Heaping	10.86
Threshing	24.53
Drying	13.13
Winnowing	12.18
Storage	8.3

In the farmers' view, most of the postharvest losses in terms of grain loss occur in the field-based activities as compared to the home-based activities. The harvesting stage contributes the highest losses (31%) followed by threshing (25%) while heaping is about 11% of the estimated total losses. A similar pattern was observed by Appiah et al. (2011) in Ghana. This was so because of spillage associated with the post-harvest practices.

The home-based stages accounted for only 33% of the total grain losses taking place mainly at drying and winnowing. Storage contributed least to grain losses (8.3%) contrary to Rugumamu (2009) who found that in Tanzania, farmers perceived highest losses to occur during storage of maize. In the home-based processes for example, farmers ensured that the drying yards were clean or dried the rice on tarpaulins. In addition, the farmers attached more value to the rice that gets home and would do everything possible to avoid further grain losses. Unlike for maize, there are less storage pests for rice. Because of its commercial value, farmers

ensured that the rice is stored in bags, also for easy estimation of the quantity stored. Most often they did not store rice for long as it was quickly sold off to earn income to meet household needs.

Mechanisms for Grain Loss

Table 3 shows the average scores of mechanisms through which grain is lost at different stages of postharvest process.

Table 3: Average scores of perceived modes of grain loss at different stages the postharvest process

Stages	Shattering & Spillage	Incomplete harvesting	Mixing of grain & chaff	Birds & rodents	Theft	Rotting	Pest infestation	Moisture migration
Harvesting	2.79	1.87	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heaping	2.49	0	0	0	0.95	0	0	0
Threshing	3.34	0	3.18	0	0.97	0	0	0
Drying	2.77	0	0	2.66	0.81	1.15	0	0
Winnowing	2.63	0	2.71	0	0.79	0	0	0
Storage	1.73	0	0	2.48	0	0.65	0.89	0.81

Throughout all the postharvest stages, shattering and spillage contribute the highest grain losses. Separation of grain from chaff especially at threshing and winnowing is another mode through which substantial losses of grain incurred. Birds and rodents caused losses at drying and storage. These losses were attributed to the technologies and practices used at the different stages. For example, at harvesting, the losses are attributed to the use of sickle, which is rudimentary, and inefficient. Appiah et al. (2011) also estimated higher losses associated with using a sickle compared to panicle reaping with a knife.

Interventions for reduction of postharvest losses need to target the stages where the highest PHLs occur. Based on this study, efforts need to be directed at improving technologies and practices that reduce shattering, spillage and inefficient separation of grain from chaff, as these were the major modes through which grain was lost. Lost grain is lost food and income to the farmers after they have invested substantially to produce the grain.

Use of tarpaulins, for example, can reduce spillage at threshing and drying. In the FGDs, high spillage losses during drying were attributed to non-use of improper use of tarpaulins and damage by domestic birds/animals. Similar findings regarding the PHLs due to free ranging and other wild birds were noted by Rugumamu (2009) to case significant losses in maize.

Farmers' Perception of Quality deterioration During Post-harvest Processing

Figure 1 presents farmers' perceptions on quality deterioration at the various stages of the postharvest process.

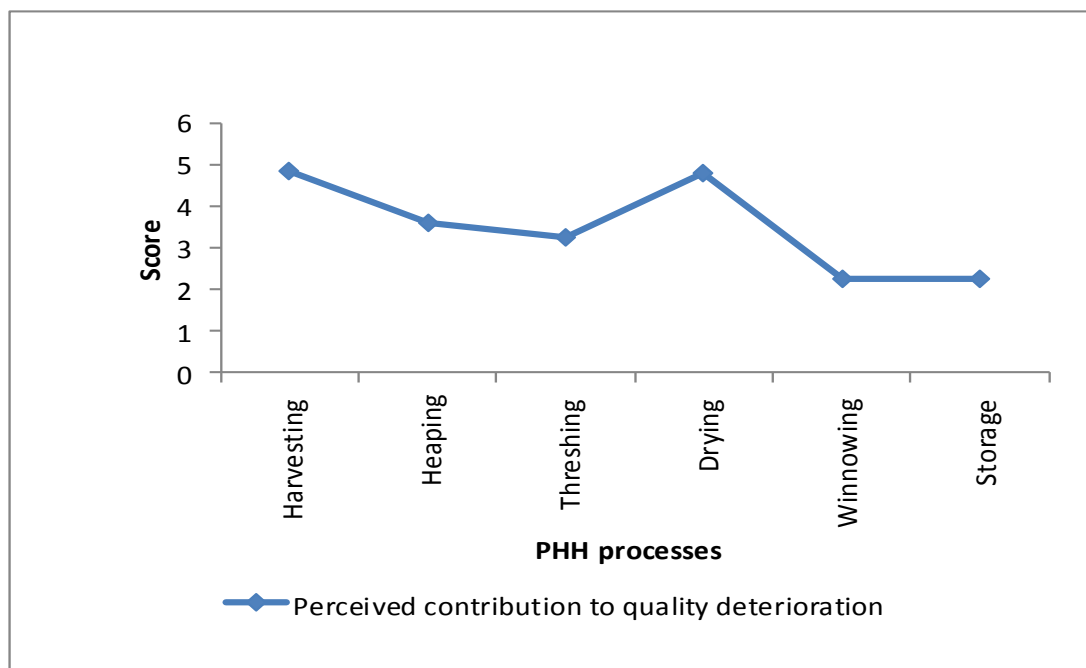


Figure 1: Perceived quality deterioration through stages in the post-harvest process

Figure 1 shows that farmers recognized quality deterioration of rice at all stages of postharvest processes. In the farmers' opinion, harvesting and drying were the stages highest level of quality deterioration occurred. At harvesting, this is attributed to early and late harvesting of rice. The non-uniform maturity of the varieties and sometimes labour shortage are some of the reasons for early or late harvesting. The non-selective nature of harvesting by bundling and cutting leads to contamination of rice with weeds (e.g. *striga*), which also affected the quality of rice. At drying, quality was lost either due to over-drying leading to development of fissures that caused broken grains or inadequate drying that leads to grain discolouration. The practices that contributed to quality deterioration at drying include; i) drying rice on bare ground; ii) over-drying for more than the recommended three hours per day; iii) failure to turn rice regularly during drying; iv) contamination by droppings of domestic animals and birds and v) wetting of rice by rain. While farmers were aware of the effects of these practices on the quality of rice, they continue with the practices due to some constraints. For example, while farmers were aware that drying rice for more than three hours a day may lead to broken grain during milling, they did so because of unpredictability of the weather. Farmers in most developing countries rely on sun drying implying that variability in weather affects the PHH operations often increasing PHLs (Hodges et al., 2011; Adebayo et al., 2014). Technologies such as using simple solar powered flat-bed dryers which can help to solve the problem are not affordable by farmers.

At heaping, quality degraded through heat build-up from molds resulting into yellowing of rice grain, loss of taste and aroma and at threshing it is through varietal mixing and contamination with mud and other foreign matter. Winnowing and storage are the stages with the lowest levels of quality deterioration. At storage quality

deterioration was through improper storage facilities resulting from moisture migration causing yellowing of the grains.

Determinants of Farmers' Perceived Potential to Reduce PHLs

To fully understand what shapes the farmers' perceptions on their ability to curb PHLs, a principal component analysis was performed. Based on this analysis (Appendix 1) six principal factors were extracted as determinants of farmers' perceptions to curb PHLs. Factor 1-6, extracted the largest amount of variance (56.98%) and had Eigen values greater than 1 (Kaiser, 1960). Factor 1 accounted for 18.7% of the variance, Factor 2 for 9.63 %, Factor 3 for 8.8%, Factor 4 for 8.1%, Factor 5 for 6.2% and Factor 6 for 5.5 %.

The six principal component factors were then treated as predictor variables and subjected to a logistic model analysis to determine the likelihood that farmers will perceive themselves capable of curbing PHLs at various stages in the postharvest process, namely; harvesting, threshing and drying where the losses are perceived to be the highest by farmers. The results of the model are presented in the Table 4.

Table 4: Perceived factors to reduce PHLs

Stage	Determinants	B	Wald	Exp (B)
Harvesting	Modes of grain quality deterioration	0.326	2.409	1.386
	Contribution of various modes of physical grain loss	-.098	.220	.906
	Utilization of rice in the household	-0.291	1.780	.747
	Labour availability on the farm	-0.146	.479	.864
	Household characteristics	-.020	.009	.980
	Potential for expansion of rice production	.435	4.054*	1.545
Threshing	Modes of grain quality deterioration	.342	2.081	1.407
	Contribution of various modes of physical grain loss	-.769	7.183*	.464
	Utilization of rice in the household	-.909	11.986*	.403
	Labour availability on the farm	.112	.224	1.119
	Household characteristics	.018	.005	1.018
	Potential for expansion of rice production	.709	6.338*	2.031
Drying	Modes of grain quality deterioration	-.309	1.852	.734
	Contribution of various modes of physical grain loss	-.530	4.013*	.589
	Utilization of rice in the household	-.588	6.310*	.556
	Labour availability on the farm	.081	.128	1.084
	Household characteristics	.471	3.815*	1.602
	Potential for expansion of rice production	.068	.087	1.070

Table 4 indicates that not all the six factors had influence on the farmers' perceptions about their perceived capability to reduce PHLs at the various stages. At harvesting, the logistic model identified "potential for expansion of rice production" as the

significant factor that is likely to influence farmers' perceptions about their capability to curb PHLs. Potential for expansion of rice production had a positive co-efficient and was significant at $p \leq 0.05$. This implies that, farmers that have the potential to increase acreage under rice are more likely to perceive themselves capable of curbing PHLs at harvesting and threshing. This is probably due to the commercial orientation that is associated with larger acreage and the likelihood that such farmers tend to seek for more efficient technologies in their operations as opposed to reliance on human labor among the smallholder farmers. Tiamiyu et al. (2009) argues that commercialization empowers farmers to get access to resources, which they can plough back into production and postharvest handling activities. Further, they tend to minimize losses of both physical grain and quality in order to maximize on output and income. This in itself is a challenge given that most of the rice farmers are indeed smallholders and expansion may be constrained by availability and/or access to additional land for expansion. A possible way to address this could be consolidation of smallholder farms where farmers can collectively acquire more efficient technologies for harvesting, but this also implies synchronization of the farm operations among the smallholder farmers.

In addition to the potential for expansion of rice production, farmers' awareness about the mode of physical grain loss and how rice is utilized in the household had a significant influence on the farmers' perception on capability to curb PHLs at the threshing stage ($p < 0.05$). The negative coefficient of awareness about modes of physical gain loss implies that despite farmers' awareness of the modes of grain loss, they perceived themselves less able to reduce the losses at threshing as their awareness of the modes through which the losses occur increases possibly due to lack of best-fit practices and technologies. A farmer who is aware of the modes of losses is also likely to know the technologies and practices required to reduce those losses. Affordability of the required technologies and practices is a major factor shaping farmer's perceptions on ability to reduce losses. Discussions with the farmers during FGDs revealed that they were aware that spillage was among the major modes of physical grain loss at threshing and that a thresher would substantially reduce these losses, however they could not afford to purchase/hire a thresher.

Household characteristics (years of experience, age of respondent and total household size) had a positive and statistically significant influence on farmers' perception about capability to curb PHLs ($p < 0.1$). This implies that as the years of experience and household size increase, the more likely a farmer will perceive themselves as having the capability to curb PHLs. Experience reflects accumulation of knowledge and skill, which in turn provides options to the farmer to curb PHLs. Furthermore, household size is a proxy of family labour availability for post-harvest activities. Rice postharvest handling activities are labour intensive, tedious and manually done compared to other crops such as maize; thus making labour a key requirement in reduction of PHLs (Kijima et al., 2008; Issa, 2016). Therefore, a farmer with larger household is more likely to perceive himself as having capability compared to those with a smaller household.

Contribution of various modes of physical grain loss and proportions rice sold or consumed at the household level had a negative but significant coefficients at threshing and drying stages ($p \leq 0.05$). This implies that as households increase the

proportion of rice consumed the less likely they perceive themselves capable of curbing PHLs. This implies subsistence farmers are less likely to take initiatives to curb post-harvest losses in rice compared to commercially orientated farmers. In terms of practical intervention, the subsistence farmers will require more sensitization to influence them to change to practices and technologies that curb PHLs.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Change in perceptions is the starting point for influencing change of behavior of smallholder farmers towards reducing PHLs in rice. Farmers are aware of the losses that take place at different stages in the postharvest process (i.e. harvesting, heaping, threshing, drying and storage). In their own view, over 66% of the losses take place in the field-based processes while about 34% take place in the home-based processes. The modes through which losses occur are also known. Most farmers, however, perceive themselves unable to reduce the PHLs at the stages where the losses occur most. This perception is shaped by lack of knowledge and availability of best-fit practices and technologies for the smallholder farmers. The shift from subsistence to commercial orientation is the major leap towards influencing behaviours that support reduction of post-harvest losses in rice. This can be achieved by both expansions of farms and increased productivity to provide more for sale than domestic consumption. Labour availability in the household is also a critical factor influencing post-harvest losses though the labour saving technologies available are unaffordable by the majority of farmers.

Overall, it is the scale of operation, commercial orientation and labor efficiency that most often influence positive attitudes towards curbing PHLs among smallholder farmers. Unlike the other attributes, most farmers may not have the opportunity to expand their area under rice production due to limitation of access to land. In such cases, coordination of the smallholder farmers to organize themselves and synchronize their operations is a plausible option for them to collectively operate like and still enjoy the benefits of a large commercial oriented farmer. In undertaking interventions for reduction of PHLs, the smallholder and subsistence farmers will require more sensitization.

Declaration of Conflicting Interest

The author(s) declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article

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Appendix 1: Determinants of factors with the perceived ability to reduce PHL in the Rice production chain

Factor label and variables	Component and factor loadings					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Contribution of the various modes of Grain Quality Deterioration						
Rotting	0.820	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Molding	0.810	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Mixed varieties	0.738	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Delayed harvesting	0.684	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Grain discoloration (Yellowing)	0.677	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pest damage	0.568	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Contamination with foreign matter	0.502	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Contribution of the various modes of Physical Grain Loss						
Rodents and termites damage or losses	0.000	0.762	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Uncollected panicles	0.000	0.643	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Spillage losses	0.000	0.642	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Incomplete separation of grain from chaff	0.000	0.533	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Utilization of rice in the household						
Proportion of rice for sale	0.000	0.000	-0.960	0.000	0.000	0.000
Proportion of rice for home consumption	0.000	0.000	0.832	0.000	0.000	0.000
Proportion of rice for planting seeds	0.000	0.000	0.628	0.000	0.000	0.000
Labor availability on the farm						
Family labour	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.869		0.000
Hired labour	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.869		0.000
Household Characteristic						
Number of years of rice farming	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.801	0.000
Age of respondent in years	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.798	0.000
Total household size	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.536	0.000
Potential for expansion of area under rice production						
Amount of land allocated to rice production	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.821
Total land operated by the household	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.758
Eigen value ≥ 1	5.421	2.793	2.560	2.364	1.798	1.588
Cumulative percent of variance explained (%)	18.692	28.222	37.149	45.301	51.501	56.978