

Commercializing Hermetic Technologies for Grain Storage to Improve Market Access and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa (PICS3)

The Problem

Millions of farmers in developing nations depend on cereal and legumes for food security as well as income. Storage is a key challenge due to insect damage after harvest. This results in monetary losses and food insecurity for farmers and their families. In some cases farmers turn to insecticides, which are often ineffective, expensive or dangerous when misused.



Project Overview

PICS3 is the 3rd phase of the Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) Project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. PICS3 is promoting hermetic technologies for grain storage (using PICS as a driver) in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Malawi.

This inexpensive technology allows farmers to store their grains without the use of insecticides and, provides them the flexibility to sell when prices are high and supply chemical-free high quality food to their families throughout the year.



PICS3 Goals

- ➡ Train farmers on proper use of hermetic technologies in at least 14,000 villages
- ➡ Develop a sustainable supply chain to make PICS bag available to farmers
- ➡ Build local research and extension capacity to sustain post-harvest loss reduction.

Visit us online:



PICS3
Purdue Improved Crop Storage

For more information on the PICS3 project:

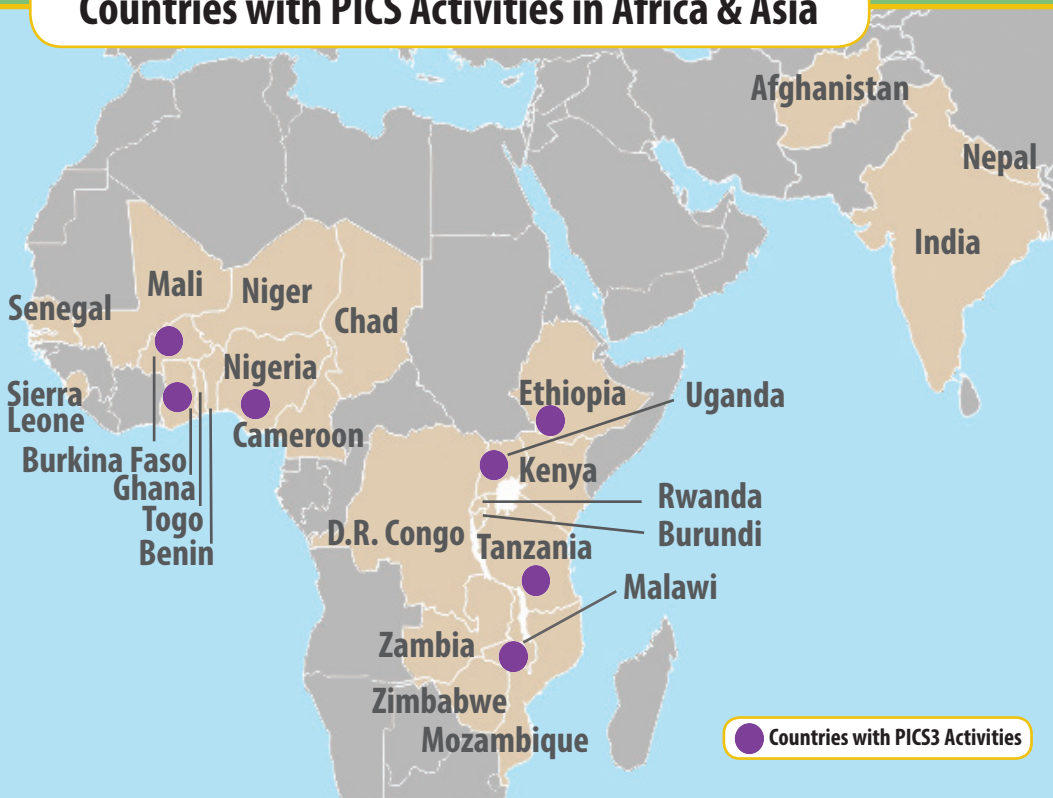
www.entm.purdue.edu/PICS3/

or contact

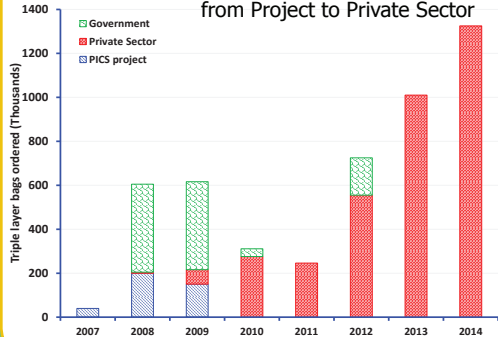
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Countries with PICS Activities in Africa & Asia



PICS Bag Supply Chain Developed from Project to Private Sector



PICS Overall Achievements SINCE 2007:

- ➡ At least 2.5 million farmers trained on PICS bags in more than 40,000 villages
- ➡ PICS activities are implemented in more than 23 countries in Africa and Asia
- ➡ 14 manufacturers currently producing PICS bags including 12 in Sub-Sahara Africa
- ➡ 5 million PICS bags produced and sold by the private sector by August 2015.

Our Partners

- ➡ Private sector entrepreneurs (manufacturers, distributors and vendors) produce and sell PICS bags to farmers in all seven PICS3 countries.
- ➡ Extension and research partners train farmers and, implement follow-up research and M&E activities.

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