

UNIDO address Post Harvest Food Loss in Greater Bahr El Ghazal

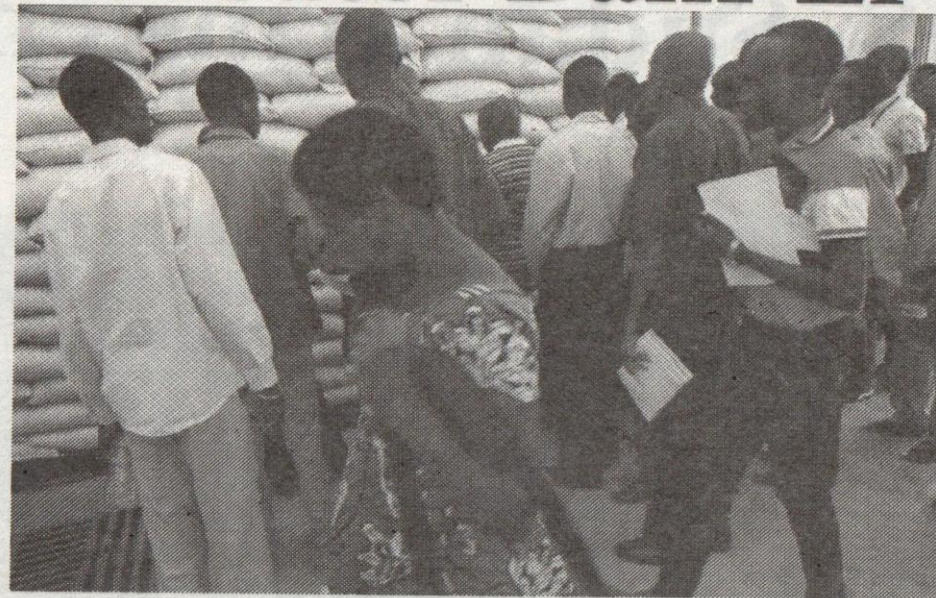
By Benjamin Takpiny

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) project funded by the European Union (EU) has addressed post-harvest loss problem in the Greater Bahr El Ghazal region.

As part of its effort to support small holder farmers and agricultural market in the country the European Union (EU) has launched a comprehensive rural development Programme 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.

In the statement seen by dawn, the Main goal of the Zonal Effort for agricultural Transformation - Bahr El Ghazal Effort for Agricultural Development (ZEAT- BEAD) Project is to improve food security and income of the rural small holders in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal (GBEG) region.

The statement added the overall objectives of 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.

According to the statement, 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.

The UNIDO in partnership with 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