

**Name of the activity, component or project**

Postcosecha

**Name of the country, and the date of the intervention**

Central America, 1980 - 2002

**A brief description of the challenge you faced,**

Post-harvest losses of maize grain through borers is an important factor for food insecurity and poverty in rural central America. The challenge was to identify an adopted technology to overcome the constraint and develop a sustainable supply chain for technology delivery and maintenance.

**How you approached it**

SDC and local stakeholders initiated a project with the clear aim of developing a functioning technology for maize storage based on metal silos adapted to the circumstances. Local craftsmen were associated to the project and trained to produce and maintain silos on a sustainable basis.

**The development impact, and Name and email address of a contact person for further information**

Today over 300'000 metal silos are functional all over Central America and a chain of local silo producers and service providers is operating totally independent from development cooperation. Economic impact is estimated to exceed 6 mio USD/year. The experience is being replicated in Cuba, Peru and to a lesser degree in other countries. Spontaneous spillover is reported from Guatemala to Southern Mexico. Corresponding work is being initiated in Southern Africa.

The example is significant for the importance of continuity, a clear vision and technology combined with a sound approach to work with local private and public stakeholders.

**N.B.** SDC considers that similar efforts by other agencies failed or were less successful mainly because of the lack of continuity and lack of continuous adaptation to local circumstances.

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