

In a short response, assess the validity of the reasoning identifying what you believe to be fact and opinion. Use relevant and specific evidence from the passage to support your response.

Fighting World Hunger With Post-Harvest Food Preservation Systems

By Charles L. Wilson, Ph.D.

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The challenge of how to feed a growing population is one of the most urgent issues we face. By 2050, the world population is expected to grow by a quarter and reach 9.5 billion. Twenty-eight companies—including Monsanto, General Mills, and PepsiCo—recently formed a “New Vision for Agriculture” initiative in an effort to form a strategy to feed billions of more people for the decades ahead. The group recently presented its vision at the World Economic Forum in Davos, calling for increased investment in a “technical approach to farming that increases productivity.” Yet notably absent in this new effort is a recognition that world hunger could be combatted more effectively through technologies that companies like Monsanto and Pepsi can’t monetize—namely, technologies for post-harvest food preservation.

Recent studies by the World Bank and UN FAO have shown clearly that we already have enough food to feed a growing population if we only saved it. More than one-third of the food produced worldwide is lost to spoilage and waste. Individuals in developing countries living in food insecurity are impacted the greatest by these losses. Reducing post-harvest food losses in developing countries can have a major impact on reducing the hunger and poor health suffered by its citizens, potentially outpacing—by far—the incremental advances in yield made through the genetic alteration of seed and the heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides. Yet up until now, there has been an absence of will on the part of industry to support post-harvest preservation technologies. This may be owing to the fact that the companies who produce seed and foodstuffs make money from selling as much of their product as possible, but not from the customer who is able to preserve what they grow or buy.