



LONG TERM STORAGE FOR FOOD SECURITY - PICS BAGS

more than

40%

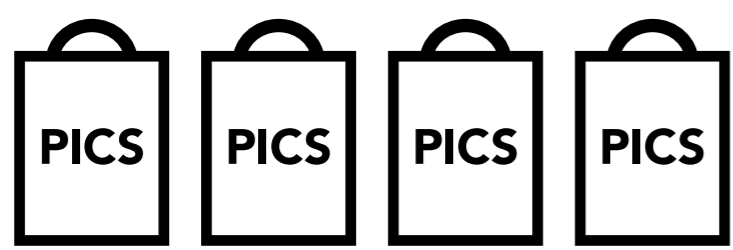
of harvest lost in storage

Malawi's economy depends on the agriculture sector. Among the main crops grown for consumption in Malawi are maize, beans, soya and groundnuts. Malawian smallholder farmers suffer post-harvest loss of more than 40% of their total harvest once in storage due to weevils, termites, fungi and other hazards.

For most of the farmers, the appropriate pesticides to secure their harvest are likely to be out of their price range.



The **Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS)** bag was developed to address this need to protect harvested crops. It is a low cost effective solution to post harvest losses. The bag has two linings of high-density polyethylene on the inside and an outer layer of woven polypropylene; the two layers together cut oxygen supply to the grains, which ensures pests do not survive.



58,000

PICS Bags Distributed

For the 2018/2019 season LLTC has supplied all contracted farmers with 3 PICS bags per hectare of food crop (grain) grown. By December 2018, LLTC had distributed 58,000 bags to its contracted farmers. For the same period, LLTC contracted farmers received over 17,000 packs of bean seed, 15,000 packs of groundnut seed and 19,000 packs of maize seed.

The PICS bags help avoid or mitigate post-harvest losses on grain crops. LLTC also provided training to the farmers on the proper use of the bags. By securing grains after harvest, farmers not only have enough food, but they can sell off the excess at good value due to the high quality of the grain and in this way they improve their livelihoods.

