

STOVERPACK

Creating a new value proposition for maize stover in Uganda

- **Agri-Tech Catalyst Round 7- Agriculture and food systems innovation**
- **Innovate UK funded with support from DFID- 18 month feasibility study starting in 2019**
- **A UK- Uganda collaboration with five partners, investigating the transfer of expertise in pulping technologies and biobased food packaging**



AGRICULTURE IN UGANDA



30-40% POST HARVEST LOSSES

30-40% of fresh produce is wasted through post-harvest losses, rising to 60% for tomatoes resulting from the use of sub-optimal packaging materials.

80% OF CROP STOVER

80% of the dry weight of harvested crop is material used for fuel, livestock feed and mulch, known as "stover". There are currently no higher value outlets for the maize stover.

40% MAIZE CALORIES CONSUMED

Maize is the most important cereal crop, providing over 40% of the calories consumed in rural and urban areas.

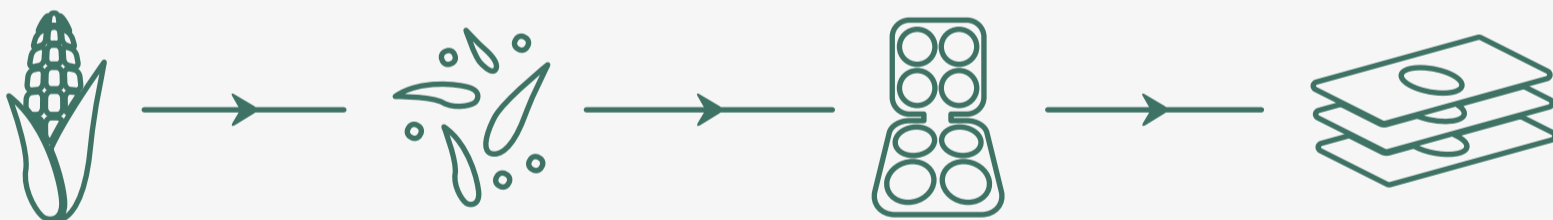
84% LIVE RURALLY

32.7 million Ugandans live in the rural areas accounting for 84% of the population.

82% EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE 4/5THS WOMEN

82% of the workforce are employed in agriculture with women accounting for 4/5ths.

THE STOVERPACK VALUE CHAIN



- 1 Farmers grow Maize as food & as cash crop**
Two million Ugandans counting on maize as their main source of income, with maize making up 40% of all calories consumed.
- 2 Maize Is harvested and separated from stover**
Maize is harvested with 80% being stalks, leaves, husks, and cobs. 89% of this is used as crop mulch with the remainder used as fuel (8%) and animal feed (3%).
- 3 Portion of stover turned into packaging**
A proportion of this material destined for use as crop mulch is diverted to produce efficient, high quality, biodegradable food packaging.
- 4 Packaging used to reduce post-harvest loss and generate revenue**
 - Income streams developed from maize stover for farmers and female led smallholdings.
 - Post-harvest losses are reduced resulting in increased income for farmers.
 - Environmentally friendly packaging can be developed for the retail sector.



PROJECT CONTACTS:

Dr. Adam Charlton
Bangor University | UK
Email: adam.charlton@bangor.ac.uk

Dr. Stephen Lwasa
Makerere University | Uganda
Email: slwasa@caes.mak.ac.ug