

A field-tested, low-cost, locally-produced, multi-crop thresher

Kerry Clark, Gabriel Abdulai
clarkk@missouri.edu

Univ. Missouri FTF Soybean Innovation Lab, SIL

Abstract: As a response to challenges related to postharvest loss, labor requirements, and seed and grain quality issues, SIL developed, tested and scaled a locally produced and locally serviced low cost multi-crop thresher with development partners in Ghana and Malawi at Compatible Technologies International CTI, the ADVANCE project, MEDA, Catholic Relief Services CRS, and the Agricultural Diversification Project of Malawi. Mechanized threshing greatly reduces post-harvest loss in grains and cereals because it allows for quicker removal of the crop from the field, reducing losses from shattering or disease and reducing exposure to birds, rodents and adverse weather. Mechanized threshing also addresses problems common to hand threshing including grain spillage, grain breakage, and incomplete separation of the grain from the chaff while also reducing heavy labor requirements for farmers. The transfer of this SIL technology to development partners exemplifies the U.S. Governments Feed the Future research-for-development strategy of equipping in-country partners with evidence-based tools and technologies to enable successful soybean development programs.