

Report on : Spoilage and Wastage in Ukraine due to war

Ukraine has long been known as the "breadbasket of Europe" because it supplies wheat, maize, barley, and sunflower oil to the world. But since the war began in 2022, its food system has faced severe and unusual shocks. Spoilage and wastage on a large scale of agricultural produce have emerged as a critical problem. It directly threatens food security for the entire world.

Russia has destroyed Ukraine's food system and converted it into a war zone. Attacks on port ,silos ,power and have raised post harvest losses ,delayed exports .

The war is a disaster for Ukrainian farmers. It's destroying their income and putting a huge burden on their government. This is also bad for the world, especially for countries that rely on Ukraine for essential foods like wheat, corn, and sunflower oil-many of which are already facing food shortages.

Even with quick fixes, the problem won't stop as long as Ukraine's ports and storage facilities are under attack.

1.A Strategic Challenge: Confronting Food Spoilage and Wastage in Ukraine

Before the war, Ukraine's grain exports fed hundreds of millions each year and supported the UN World Food Programme. For import-dependent nations in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, Ukrainian food was a lifeline.

The war has disrupted nearly every part of agriculture from planting and harvesting to storage, power supply, and export logistics. Even with the Black Sea Grain Initiative (July 2022-July 2023), only about 33 million tonnes were exported, far below pre-war levels. Russia's withdrawal and repeated strikes on ports and silos left grain exposed to pests, moisture, and contamination.

Impacts:

- Ukraine: Farmers lose income, households face higher food prices, and rural communities become more food insecure.
- Globally: Import-dependent nations struggle with shortages and price spikes, increasing hunger risks.

2. Stakeholder Analysis

- **Farmers:** Crops spoil in fields or silos without safe transport and storage, leading to direct financial losses.
- **Ukrainian Families:** Higher prices and limited availability burden households, especially displaced populations.
- **Government and Economy:** Export earnings decline, budgets tighten, and Ukraine's role in world trade weakens.

- **Global Community:** As a top exporter, Ukraine's disruptions fuel volatility in global markets and deepen food insecurity abroad.

3) Problem analysis (facts → evidence → diagnosis)

Ukrainian farmers aren't losing crops due to bad practices; it's a direct result of the war.

- **Damaged Storage:** About 10% of the country's grain storage has been destroyed or taken over.
- **Transport Delays:** Since the Black Sea is unsafe, and Danube ports are being attacked, grain has to travel on slower, longer rail routes.
- **Power Cuts:** When the power goes out, farmers can't run the equipment needed to dry and cool their grain, leading to mold and pests.
- **Buyer Hesitation:** With so much risk, buyers are holding back, so crops sit idle for months, often getting ruined by moisture.

4. Recommendations (Feasible & Culturally Relevant)

What Can Be Done:

Inside Ukraine:

First, we need to help farmers on the ground.

- **Use More Silo-Bags:** Farmers are already using these big plastic bags to store grain cheaply. We need to give them more of these.
- **Provide Mobile Dryers:** We can give farmers portable dryers and generators so they can save their crops even when the power goes out.
- **Fix Key Silos:** We should repair important grain storage buildings and make them stronger so they can survive attacks.

How to Get Food Out of Ukraine:

Next, we need to make sure the food can leave the country.

- **Open Up More Routes:** We should use more of the Danube river, EU railways, and other sea paths to get grain moving.
- **Help with Insurance:** We can support insurance for ships to prevent delays at ports.
- **Send Food to Those in Need:** We need to keep a special path open to send food to countries that are facing hunger.

5) Evidence for the recommendation (why this will succeed):

- FAO and WFP have already distributed 30,000 silo-bags, protecting up to 6 million tonnes of grain.
- The Black Sea Grain Initiative stabilized prices and fed high-need countries, showing direct benefits when exports resumed.
- Every major attack on Ukrainian ports has triggered spikes in global wheat prices, proving the link between Ukrainian capacity and world food stability.

6) Expected impact of the proposed solution

If we put these plans into action, here's what we can expect to happen:

In the Next Year (Short-Term)

- **Less Wasted Food:** More silo-bags and mobile dryers will help farmers save their grain from spoiling.
- **Smoother Exports:** Getting food out of the country faster will help calm global grain markets and keep prices more stable.
- **Stronger Farmers:** With better ways to store and dry their crops, farmers will be better able to handle the challenges of the war.

In the Next 1-3 Years (Medium-Term)

- **Lasting Solutions:** As we rebuild and strengthen storage facilities, we can reduce long-term food waste.
- **More Stable Supply:** A better export system will help stabilize the global food supply chain for years to come.
- **Less Reliance on Aid:** Countries that depend on food aid will be able to get what they need from a more reliable supply, reducing their need for emergency help.

7. Conclusion

In short, the war in Ukraine has caused a food crisis that affects the whole world, not just Ukraine. Reports from FAO, WFP, and the UN show that practical steps like giving farmers mobile storage, finding new export routes, and working together internationally can help reduce waste and keep food moving.

References

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2023). *Ukraine: Emergency agricultural response*. FAO. <https://www.fao.org>

World Food Programme. (2022). *Impact of the Black Sea Grain Initiative on global food security*. WFP. <https://www.wfp.org>

United Nations. (2023). *Black Sea Grain Initiative: Facts and figures*. UN. <https://news.un.org>

World Bank. (2023). *Agricultural disruptions in Ukraine: Global food security implications*. World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org>

International Food Policy Research Institute. (2022). *How the war in Ukraine is driving global food insecurity*. IFPRI. <https://www.ifpri.org>

Reuters. (2023, July). *Russia attacks Ukraine's grain storage facilities, threatening food security*. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com>

FAO. (2023). *FAO in Ukraine [YouTube playlist]*. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzp5NgJ2-dK6MgDPbteSYq1QP6E8MJTFL>

Davydov, D. [Denys Davydov]. (2025). *Denys Davydov YouTube Channel*. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@DenysDavydov>

Gordon, D. [Dmitry Gordon]. (2025). *Dmitry Gordon YouTube Channel*. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@gordonua>

Six, B. [Billy Six]. (2025). *Billy Six YouTube Channel*. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@BillySix>

DW News. (2023, June 18). *How significant is the damage to Ukraine's agriculture sector?* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF1dfXqgLkA>

Al Jazeera English. (2023, July 25). *Agriculture in wartime: Ukraine* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VW1Sw9FPs6U>

REPORT CREATED BY :

ROSHAN GODARA