



# Global Burden of Crop Loss

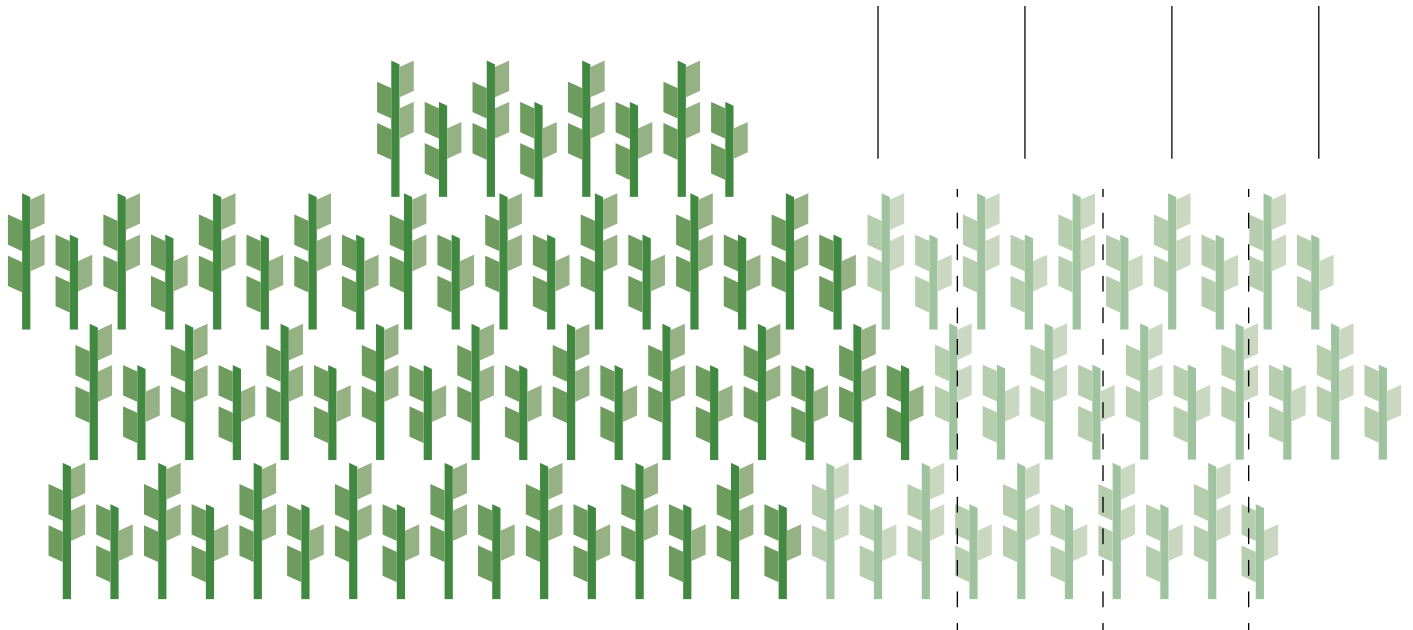
“Worldwide, it is estimated that 20 to 40% of crops (FAO) are lost to insects, weeds and diseases”

Current efforts to reach sustainable development goals in food security, nutrition, and livelihoods are hampered by crop loss due to pests and diseases. To make matters worse, data on the scale, scope, and geography are sparse and outdated, which minimizes its magnitude and limits the development of effective intervention programs.

The Global Burden of Crop Loss initiative aims to generate comprehensive, authoritative evidence on the causes and risk factors of crop loss worldwide. This will allow agricultural research, policy, funding, and interventions, to maximise impact through improved targeting and relevance.

## Crop loss causes

How much do we lose to...?



How does it vary between crops and across geographies?

## The problem

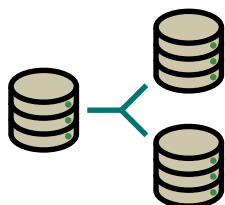
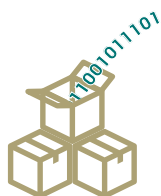
Keeping up with growing demand for food, in the context of climate change and increasingly varying growing conditions, is one of the defining challenges of our time. We will need to produce far more food (estimates range between 25 - 100% increase required by 2050), while limiting the environmental impact to ensure enough food is available for all of us for generations to come. Reducing crop loss will need to be a major component of this, and significant efforts are needed for improved management of pests, including pathogens and weeds.

Despite the clear need for action, decision making is hindered by major gaps in data availability, quality analysis, and clear communication to decision makers. Policymakers, researchers, funders, and farmers themselves lack the evidence to make informed choices about how big the problem is and where to target their efforts. Climate change further exacerbates the challenge, as pests move into new areas of the world, and existing data become outdated.

## What we are doing

The Global Burden of Crop Loss initiative is modelled after the Global Burden of Disease initiative in human health, which has transformed health policy, research, and funding over the last 25 years through better use of data. We aim to have a similarly transformative impact in agriculture, providing the evidence base that will enable the global plant health community to generate actionable information that will lead to the dramatic reduction in crop loss.

We are currently working to lay the groundwork for this initiative - engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, developing our methodology, and building a comprehensive research and data collection network. We will formally launch the initiative as part of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020, and aim to complete initial estimates in the next 3 - 4 years, to show the world the magnitude of the challenge and most importantly where investments in plant health can make significant impacts.



## Join us

We invite you to join a global community of interdisciplinary collaborators, from all corners of the globe.

Learn more about the Global Burden of Crop Loss by visiting our website at [croploss.org](http://croploss.org) or by contacting our mailbox: [croploss@cabi.org](mailto:croploss@cabi.org)



For more information visit: [www.croploss.org](http://www.croploss.org)



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