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## **Grain Grading Equipment Handover Ceremony**

*Remarks by*

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**USAID AGP-AMDe Oromia Offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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I am happy to be here today on behalf of the U.S. Government as part of the handover ceremony for the new post-harvest handling equipment.

The objective of introducing these innovative post-harvest technologies is to provide farmers' cooperative unions (FCU) with the necessary technology to enable smallholder farmers to decrease post-harvest losses as well as improve quality. As a result of these interventions by USAID's Agribusiness Market Development (AMDe) project, a significant number of smallholder farmers will benefit by increasing the volume and quality of their crops.

AMDe is a flagship activity under the [Feed the Future](#) initiative in Ethiopia and represents one of USAID's largest contributions to the Government of Ethiopia's Agricultural Growth Program.

Under President Obama's 3.5 billion dollar Feed-the-Future initiative, the U.S. Government is one of Ethiopia's largest partners in developing the agriculture sector, which is a fundamental cornerstone of the Ethiopian economy.

Agriculture contributes 47 percent to the national GDP and employs over 80 percent of the population, and continues to be a priority for the Ethiopian Government's five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP). In support of Ethiopia's GTP, our activities touch nearly all aspects of Ethiopia's agriculture industry.

The U.S. Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), invested approximately 228,000 U.S. dollars in this new grain grading equipment as well as market linkages and technical support to maximize its impact. This new equipment will be provided to 39 FCUs so more than 1.5 million member farmers will have access to it.

Thanks to the previous post-harvest training and technology, we have reduced post-harvest loss significantly since the start of the USAID AGP-AMDe project. Chickpea post-harvest losses were reduced dramatically from 20 percent to six percent. Maize post-harvest losses were cut in half—from 23 percent to 11 percent.

USAID AGP-AMDe works closely with farmers' cooperatives unions and smallholder farmers. We are pleased with the achievements to date:

- Over 62,000 smallholder farmers applied new technology on more than 38,800 hectares
- Facilitated market linkages with buyers for FCUs and processors for domestic and export markets that resulted in sales of 91 million U.S. dollars
- Trained more than 78,000 smallholder farmers and created almost 1,000 new jobs

Thank you and I look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the stakeholders here today to benefit smallholder farmers across Ethiopia—by reducing post-harvest losses, improving quality, and increasing sales along with their incomes.