One-sixth of the world’s population is food insecure. Often food insecurity exists because of a poor understanding of the conditions under which agricultural produce has to be managed after harvesting; knowledge of Food Science/Technology can dramatically improve this situation. IUFoST’s Food Security Task Force is developing strategies to expand the Food Science/Technology knowledge base in neglected geographical areas. In a cooperative effort professionals from the peanut processing industry were trained in East/West Africa to eliminate contaminated peanuts from larger batches. The trainees were interviewed regarding their expectations around any type of support by the international food science community. The responses confirmed the high interest of the trainees in focused as well as more general programs on topics like General Food Science/Technology, Product Development, Hygiene, and Marketing. In addition programs on food Safety/Microbiology, simple appropriate Processing Technologies, Lab based Testing/Analysis, Data Management, Book/Record Keeping were considered as very important and helpful. As means of knowledge transfer for the professional development and acquisition of higher qualification, Distant Education via Internet and CD, printed books, and face to face courses were emphasized. The trainees were confident that through permanent education the standards in the food industry could be improved and that through lighthouse projects more and more micro- and small-sized enterprises could be interested engaged in this process.

Sustainable improvement in the food industry has to be based on a developed infrastructure, on transportation facilities, safe utilities supply, and at the very end on schools, clinics and well organized administrations.