

Food grain storage practices, losses and solutions in the tropics: Experience from Kenya

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Abstract

Assuring quality storage and post-harvest handling of food grains constitutes an important goal in the attainment of self-sufficiency and food security in smallholder agriculture. This paper covers the current food grain storage and post-harvest handling practices, major insect pests of stored food grains and associated losses and farm level insect pest control strategies with special emphasis on rationalized use of botanical pesticides as cost-effective alternatives to synthetic insecticides in Kenya. Scientific intervention, in form of research and outreach products, provides a glimmer of hope for ecologically benign protection against insect pests of stored food grains. There is huge potential in recognizing and rationalizing the indigenous knowledge and practices for sustainable food grain storage and handling at farm level.