

Postharvest Loss: Storage

Proper grain storage, transport following the best recommended practices reduces loss of grains resulting into increased income generation and less wastage of the product.

Early detection of problems during storage and transportation permits application of corrective measures. Clean grains on clean tarp and carefully remove foreign grains to avoid contact with soil or dust. Determine moisture level, use clean bags with no holes and perfectly close filled bags by sewing. Protect the load by cleaning truck box, repairing cracks and puncture cut surfaces that may pinch bags. Cover loads with tarp, repair holes, cracks on tarp and install strips on truck to prevent load from falling. Cover a third of load, tightly tie and make regular stop overs to check the status of the cargo. Store bags in well ventilated premise for free air circulation.

Loading platform

For small stores elevate floor, place strips on stands with strong roof and walls to avoid rodents.

Inspect, repair walls to prevent moisture and install metal screens, ventilation orifices to keep insects and rodents out. Install solid secure closure on store with baits around to protect grains from rodents. Store filled bags on raised platforms arranged in a locking pattern to allow air circulation .

Do not stack more than 8 layers in height for individual pallets.

Leave enough space between bags, outer walls and sacks for easy inspection.