

Research Paper

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## Management practices adopted by farmers for storage of food grains and fodder

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**ABSTRACT :** The post-harvest losses in grains and horticultural crops have been reported to be more (15-50%) in recent past. Farmers are practicing various control measures to protect the grains from losses caused by various factors. An attempt has been made to document different measures followed by farmers for safe storage of grains. The study was conducted in Dharwad taluk of Dharwad district of Karnataka state with the sample size of 40 farmers. The data was elicited through the personal interview method. In the preparatory stage, sun drying and cleaning of food grains were followed, practically by all the farmers (100.00 %). Majority of the farmers (80.00 %) used zink phosphide as a measure of rat control.

**Key Words :** Food grains, Storage structures, Control measures

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Agriculture has made a steady progress since the mid-sixties with the advent of green revolution during which period the country moved forward from a state of low productivity to one of self – sufficiency in food grains. The post-harvest losses of food grains and oilseeds are estimated to be 10 to 20 per cent while that of different horticultural crops vary from 15 to 50 per cent (Chahal, 2011) in developing countries including India. The losses during storage are mainly due to the storage method adopted by the farmers and management practices adopted by farmers. The damage is affecting both quality and quantity of grains. With lower human and livestock population in the past, the animals had accessibility to adequate quantity of forage, crop residues and concentrates. But now the scenario of forage production and utilization envisages a different picture. The gap between the supply and demand for good quality forage continues to enlarge owing to constraints viz., land and resource inputs. Hence, it is essential to know the different grain storage practices followed by farmers, so that effective storage practices can be recommended to the farmers.

### RESEARCH PROCEDURE

The study was conducted in Dharwad taluk of Dharwad district of Karnataka state. Dharwad taluk was purposively

chosen because it is a predominantly agricultural taluk. Since the main objective of the study was to enlist various methods followed by farmers to combat problems in storage which included different aspects of storage of food grains such as fumigation, chemical control of rats, disinfestation of storage structures, etc. It was felt necessary that the respondents chosen for the study should have sufficiently involved such of the things. Accordingly list of farmers who were directly or indirectly involved in storage of food grains of the family was prepared for each village separately. All these farmers constituted the population for the study. The pretested interview schedule was used to collect the data by personal interview method. The data collected were tabulated and analyzed by using suitable statistical measures.

### RESEARCH ANALYSIS AND REASONING

The result presented in Table 1 reveals the measures followed by the respondents before and after the storage of food grains. In the preparatory stage, sun drying and cleaning of food grains were followed practically by all the farmers (100.00 %). Nearly 47.5, 20.00 and 15.00 per cent of the respondents followed the practices of sun drying the storage structures, smearing dung to bamboo storage structure and cleaning storage bins/bags, respectively.