

Knowledge of improved and scientific foodgrains storage practices adopted by farm women of Pune district, India

P.J. UPLAP AND N.S. LOHAR

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

P.J. UPLAP

Department of
Extension, Padmashree
Dr. D.Y. Patil College
of Agri-Business
Management, Akurdi,
PUNE (M.S.)INDIA

ABSTRACT

The traditional methods practiced by the farm women reveals that 24.70 per cent of farm women used gunny bags to keep the foodgrains air tight, while 38.23 percent followed practice of proper dunnage. Majority of farm women (96.47 per cent) used neem leaves for storage of foodgrains, while 38.23 per cent had taken care to control rodents. The knowledge about improved and scientific foodgrains storage practices revealed that 72.94 per cent of farm women had medium level of knowledge and 20.58 per cent had less knowledge about the scientific practices to be followed for storage of foodgrains.

INTRODUCTION

Women play an indispensable role in agriculture. After the harvest of crops, the role of women is very important as they dry the grains in sun, clean it up and store the foodgrains to improve the storage life.

Traditional practice refers to follow the indigenous practices by the farm women for storage of foodgrains. As such the farm women perform the traditional storage activities like use of bamboo lid, use of plank and ash etc., while performing the storage activities traditionally losses occur which is a great loss to Indian economy. Therefore, an attempt has been made to investigate the knowledge of farm women about improved and scientific foodgrains storage practices in order to minimize the losses.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in the college development block of College of Agriculture, Pune. Out of 112 villages, 10 villages were randomly selected for the purpose of study. A list of farm women who performed the village activities and followed the traditional methods and have the knowledge of scientific storage practice for the same purpose were prepared. From the total list of 350 farm women, 170 farm women were selected by using random sampling method.

An interview schedule was prepared in

Marathi language in order to get accurate information. Suitable questions were included to determine the training need of farm women. The statistical tool and test such as percentages mean, standard deviation and correlation coefficient method have been used for analysis of data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained from the present study are presented below:

Method to keep foodgrains air tight:

The results are presented in Table 1. It is revealed that 24.70 per cent farm women were using gunny bags. This finding is in the line with Maleeka *et al.* (1993).

Precaution of foodgrains from moisture:

The results showed that 38.23 per cent farm women followed a practice of proper dunnage, this finding is in line with Srivastava *et al.* (1979).

Material for storage of foodgrains:

Table 1 also reveals that most of farm women (96.47 per cent) were using neem leaves for protecting foodgrains from pests. This finding is in line with Jaiswal *et al.* (1996) and Sethi and Malaviya (1996). A small proportion *i.e.* 17.05 per cent were using ash. This finding is in the line with Wangikar and

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Table 1: Traditional methods used for storage of foodgrains

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of farm women	
		Number	Per cent (n=170)
Methods to keep foodgrains air-tight			
1.	Use of mud and cow dung	12	7.05
2.	Use of gunny bags	42	24.70
3.	Use of bamboo lid	15	8.82
4.	Use of iron lid	6	3.52
Precaution of foodgrains from moisture			
1.	Proper dunnage	65	38.23
2.	Use of plank	10	5.88
3.	Keeping distance between bag and wall	40	23.52
Material used for storage of foodgrains			
1.	Use of neem leaves	164	96.47
2.	Use of ash	29	17.05
Care in storage place			
1.	Keeping distance between gunny bags at store	11	6.47
2.	Keeping hygienic condition at store place	14	8.23
3.	Keeping store place airy	15	8.82
4.	Control from Rodents	65	38.23

Deshmukh (1996).

Care in storage place:

It is indicated that 38.23 per cent of farm women had taken care to control the rodents. Equal proportion had taken care to keep to the store place airy and to keep the godown in good hygienic conditions.

Knowledge about improved and scientific foodgrains storage practices:

Table 2 indicates that majority (72.94 per cent) of farm women had medium level of knowledge about storage of foodgrains. This finding is in the line with Raje (1991). About 20.58 percent had less level of knowledge and this finding is in line with Darba *et al.* (1997) and 6.48 per cent had more knowledge in respect of foodgrains storage practices as reported by Upadhyay and Gupta (1987).

Conclusion:

It is concluded from the traditional methods followed by the farm women that about 96.47 per cent of farm women were using neem leaves for protecting foodgrains from pests followed by 38.23 per cent following a practice of proper dunnage and taking care to control rodents.

Table 2: Distribution of the farm women according to extent of their knowledge about improved and scientific foodgrains storage practices

Sr. No.	Knowledge	No. of farm women	Per cent (n=170)
1.	Less (score upto 26)	35	20.58
2.	Medium (score between 27 and 34)	124	72.94
3.	More (score 35 and above)	11	6.48
Total		170	100.00

Regarding knowledge of farm women about improved and scientific foodgrains storage practices, majority (72.94 per cent) of farm women had medium level of knowledge about storage of foodgrains, while 20.58 per cent had less level of knowledge in respect of foodgrain storage practices.

Authors' affiliations:

N.S. LOHAR, Padmashree Dr. D.Y. Patil College of Agri-Business Management, Akurdi, PUNE (M.S.) INDIA

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