

D3 Fransisca Nzomo

How do you harvest and currently store your maize?

Harvest once. Early harvest, the maize is put straight on the inner roof of the house, one layer of maize. It is then sundried by the heat from the outer roof until dry which takes about three months. The maize is then peeled and put into plastic containers with insecticide. The maize is never turned.

How long can you store your maize?

Up to next harvest, a year, until nothing is left.

What do you use the maize for?

Food for the family, some gets sold and some is used as feed for poultry.

What are the biggest problems with your current storage system?

Rats and weevils because she does not smoke it. No problem with space.

What current storage system do you think is best?

Her own system because it doesn't require any wood.

Would you be open to try a new storage system?

Yes if she can see it that it works she is open to try it.

D4 Suzanne Nguofack

How do you harvest and currently store your maize?

Harvest once. Early harvest, the maize is put straight on the inner roof of the house, one layer of maize. It is then sundried by the heat from the outer roof until dry which takes about three months. The maize is then peeled and put into plastic containers but without insecticide. The maize is never turned.

How long can you store your maize?

Until it is finished which means up to a year.

What do you use the maize for?

Food for the family the maize that has gotten spoiled she sells as feed.

What are the biggest problems with your current storage system?

Transportation from the field to the house. Rats is a huge problem they can destroy up to half of the harvest and the cats can't keep up with killing them all. Weevils, she doesn't have a problem with mould. No space problem.

What current storage system do you think is best?

Her own storage system since the maize is clean on the outside when you peel it and the system doesn't require any wood.

Would you be open to try a new storage system?

She has concerns about how healthy it would be to spray yeast on the maize and also about the costs of buying suitable containers and how well it will keep if she opens the container a lot. If we can show her that the new system works well she would be willing to try it.

D5 Marie

How do you harvest and currently store your maize?

Harvest three times, early; July/August, late; December. The third harvest which is in February is planted in another field, a wetland since the maize grows during the dry season. Same procedure every harvest. The maize is put straight into the barn (inner roof) and gets smoked/sun-dried. There is only one layer of maize and it gets turned twice every week until dry which takes about two months. The maize is then peeled and put into plastic containers with insecticide.

The harvest in July is the biggest and most profitable.

How long can you store your maize?

Up to a year.

What do you use the maize for?

Only food, some is sold.

What are the biggest problems with your current storage system?

Weevils and not having enough wood. If there is not enough wood in the beginning of drying she has problems with moulds as well as weevils. Transport is also a big problem, they have a lot of different fields where they harvest. Sometimes space problem if big harvest.

What current storage system do you think is best?

She doesn't know of any other storage system.

Would you be open to try a new storage system?

Yes she is willing but concerned about where to get the yeast from.

D6 Pauline

Same answers as previous other (the second wife). Samples were taken from both early and late harvest.

D7 Delphine Teumo, Pauline and Marie, Suzanne Nguofack, Fransisca Nzomo, Madame Noumedem, Therese Kenfack

How do you harvest and currently store your maize?

Have just started to harvest twice a year. Maize is put straight on the inner roof (one layer) where it gets sundried; some which lies on top of the kitchen gets smoked. If the harvest is big, the maize is turned once a week. Same procedure during both early and late harvest. After three months (when dry) some of the maize gets peeled and put into pots for quick use. The rest of the maize get the leaves peeled off and is put in a container with insecticide.

Early harvest is the biggest.

How long can you store your maize?

Can keep it until next harvest.

What do you use the maize for?

Food and feed.

What are the biggest problems with your current storage system?

Weevils and moulds when the maize was harvested too wet. No space problem.

What current storage system do you think is best?

Don't know of any other system.

Would you be open to try a new storage system?

Yes if supplied with starting material for it. She is concerned about how you would peel the maize when wet and whether it would be possible to take out some maize from the sealed container straight away.

D8 Marié Kinkeu

How do you harvest and currently store your maize?

Harvest once, early harvest. Harvest is put straight on the inner roof and gets sundried which takes about 2-3 months. The maize lies in many layers and gets turned once a week. When dry the outer layer is peeled off and the maize is put into bags and insecticide is sprayed on.

How long can you store your maize?

Until next harvest so up to a year.

What do you use the maize for?

Food for the family, some of the spoiled maize goes to feed.

What are the biggest problems with your current storage system?

Moulds, weevils, rodents, storage space and transport which is expensive. If the harvest is big and cannot fit into her house she has to buy bamboo and hang the rest. Space problem! Big losses due to rats and insects!

What current storage system do you think is best?

She doesn't know of any other system.

Would you be open to try a new storage system?

Yes, this new storage system sounds good since she loses approximately half of her harvest to moulds, weevils and rodents.

2. Recipes for medias

DG18

31.5g DG18

220g Glycerol

1000ml distilled H₂O

0.13g Chloramphenicol

TGEA

24g TGEA

1000 ml distilled H₂O

VRBG

38.5g VRBG

1000 ml distilled H₂O

YPD

20g Glucose

20g Peptone

10g Yeast extract

15.6g Agar

1000 ml distilled H₂O

0.13g Chloramphenicol