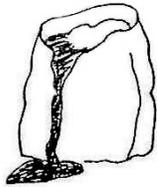


The importance of the storage to keep good quality seeds



After the harvest, if the seeds are not stored properly, they can be damaged (eaten by insects, damaged by moisture, etc.).

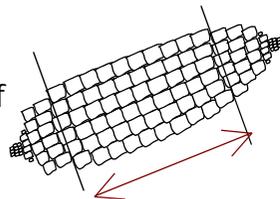


It is very important to follow good storage procedures. These procedures are required to keep all the seeds reimbursed in good conditions in order to have good quality seeds to sow the next season.

Before the storage:

1- After harvesting, the seeds should be well dried, in order to avoid moisture.

2- For maize, the best cobs should be selected. Only the grains from the middle part of the cob should be kept as seed.



3- Grading: only the best seeds can be used for sowing: all the weevilled, broken, deformed, shrivelled and rotten seeds should be removed;



- Natural treatment: Tephrosia vogelli or Neem
- Chemical treatment: Actellic

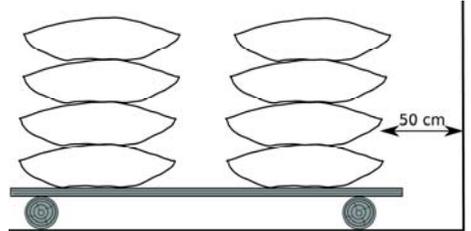
During the storage:

1- The seeds should be kept in a safe place, closed with a pad lock to avoid theft.



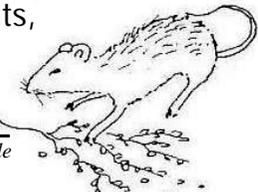
2- The granary should be clean and well ventilated in order to avoid moisture.

3- Bags should be placed on pallets at 0.5 m from the wall, to avoid moisture.



Ash, fine sand or dust should be added into different layers to reduce the damages by insects.

4- To avoid damage by rodents, poisons or traps can be used.



Having a seed bank in your village



ENGLISH

November 2009

Laurence Mathieu-Colas
 Goulven Le Bahers

What is a seed bank?



A seed bank is a stock of seeds kept at a group level (village, APC...).

The aim of the seed bank is:

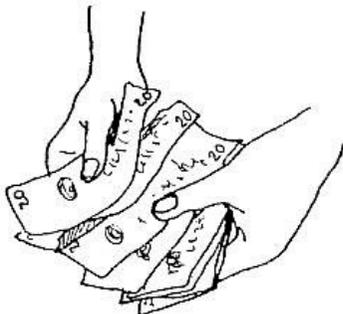
- 1- To get an access to diversified improved seeds
- 2- To get a seed loan and not to suffer from lack of seeds at the time of sowing.

The final objective is to increase the production:

☞ For eating:
to fight hunger



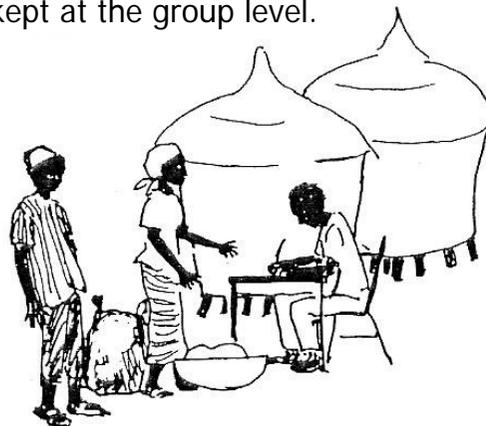
☞ For selling:
to increase incomes
and to improve the
livelihoods



How does it work?

The seeds are kept at the group level.

At the time of sowing, each member of the group can get a loan of seeds from the seed bank.

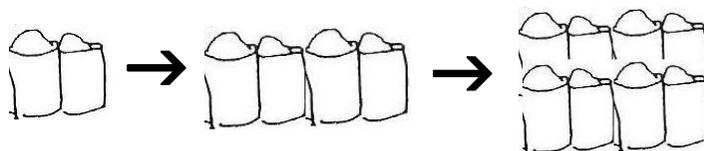


After the harvest, each member reimburses to the seed bank twice the quantity of seeds that he received.



The seeds are kept in a safe place until the next season. Then, they will be distributed again to the members.

If the group continues each and every year, the stock of seeds in the seed bank will increase. The group will have more and more seeds every year.



What can the group do with more seeds?

1- Each member can get a bigger seed loan.



2- New members can be welcomed and can benefit from the seed loan.

3- Part of the seeds can be kept in case of poor reimbursement due to a poor harvest.

4- Part of the seeds can be sold.



The money can be used for:

- renewing the maize stock every 3 years (OPV)
- buying chemicals (actellic, fertilizers...)
- any other purpose decided at the group level