

The Characteristics, Importance and Usage of the Roof Storage Method for Maize Storage in Rungwe District, Tanzania

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ABSTRACT The importance and characteristics of the roof storage method for maize storage in Rungwe district, Tanzanian were studied using 260 randomly selected farm households. Data regarding the perceived importance and efficiency of the roof storage method was collected using the matrix for scoring and ranking tool and interviews. To enable probing, both face-to-face semi-structured and structured interviews were used. Literature was also used as a source of secondary data. It was found that farm households' perceptions of the roof storage method, the materials used to construct storage roofs and the manner in which farm households used the roof storage method encouraged the invasion of stored maize by pests. It was concluded that the roof storage method required improvement. Training and sensitization of farm households with regard to improving the roof storage method and adopting more efficient grain drying technologies for achieving maximum safety of stored maize was recommended.