

REDUCING POST HARVEST LOSSES ON COWPEA BY MONTHLY SOLARISATION AND MIXING WITH ASH

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INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet is prepared and produced by Matilong Youth Mixed farming organization for cowpea farmers wishing to preserve or store the seed till planting or time of scarcity. Farmers from Kumi and Katakwi Districts who participated in the trial project testing and validating some improved storage methods have validated the method, which is communicated here. DFID/NRI, NARO-SAARI and Matilong implemented this project.

There are three methods that were tested of which monthly solarisation and mix with ash was found to be among the effective methods.

Point to note on Ash Method.

Single solarisation and mixing with ash method requires that, you spread your cowpea under the sun once and you treat (mix) it with ash at the ratio of One basin of ash to one basin of cowpea or one bag of ash to one bag of cowpea etc and store until it is needed to be used up.

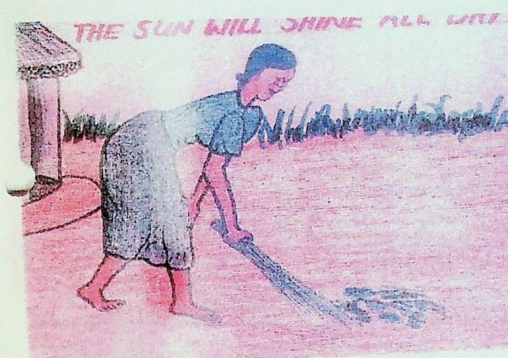
Collaboration in this project.

The effective collaborators in this project include:

KAP (Katakwi Action Project), KUDIFA, KADIFA, Vision Terudo, SAARI, NRI-UK, Extension Department Katakwi and Farmers.

"Eldare Lo Imare Lo Epatana Akoriok" Shear Nut Butter Oil Method.

Stage 1. Select an area free from tree shade and animals.
Ensure that the area is swept clean.



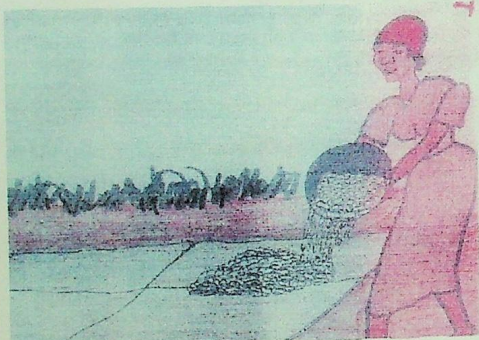
Stage 2. Spread a papyrus mat (epar) on a flat cleaned area, to ensure reduced heat loss during drying.



Stage 3. Spread polythene bags on the spread mat to make a flat smooth surface.



Stage 4. Pour the cowpeas on the spreadsheets.



Stage 5. Spread the cowpea on the spreadsheets to ensure uniform heating.



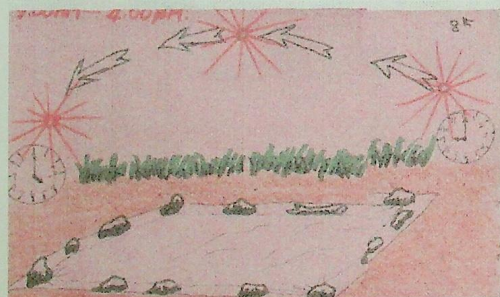
Stage 6: make sure the depth of the cowpea is 2.5cm all around. This is done by using a finger as shown below.



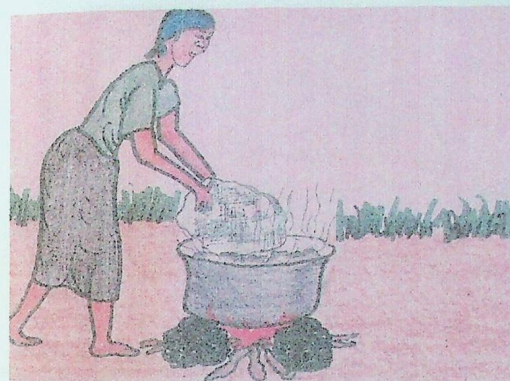
Stage 7, Cover the cowpea with polythene sheet and weight it down with stones to keep away air, moisture, dust and animals.



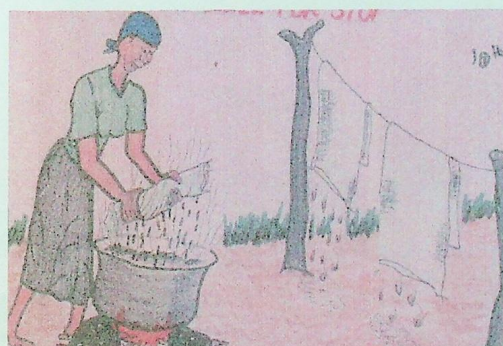
Stage 8. Leave the cowpea under the sunshine from 9:00a.m to 4:00pm to ensure that all stages of the pest (eggs, larva and adults) are dead.



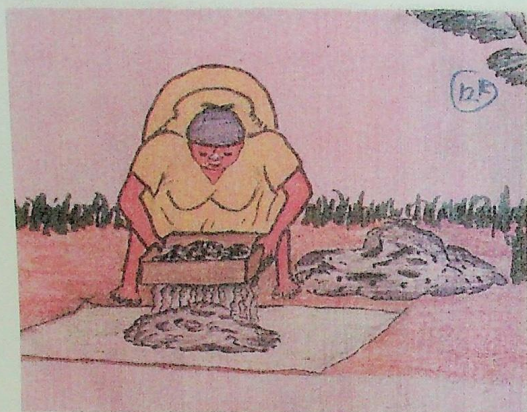
Stage 9. Boil the storage materials in water to destroy the pests.



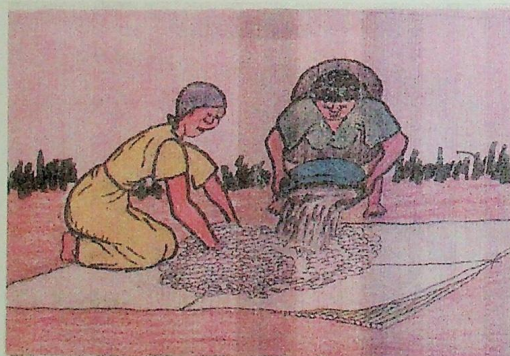
Storage 10: Rinse the storage materials and spread under the sun to dry.



Stages 11 Sieve the ash to remove charcoal and other hard materials.



Stage 12 Mix the ash with the cowpea at the rate of 1 basin of cowpea to 1 basin of ash or 1 bag of ash to 1 bag of ash



Stage: 13 Put the Cow pea into disinfected containers e.g. polythene bags and store in a cool dry raised place from the ground.



Big losses are incurred if the cow pea is left without any treatments. Farmers are advised not to leave their cowpea untreated during storage. This will lead into great insect pest infestation, damage and loss. Loss in quality will therefore lead to reduced incomes, poor quality food stuff, poor seed for germination and miserable family livelihood, as cowpea is the major food source



Opalaki and his family members above join together to cry on the losses of cowpea due to the insect infestation because of storing his crops without any treatment.