

Traditional storage structures prevalent in Himachali homes

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Abstract

The Traditional knowledge of a community in a particular region is derived from the local people's farming experience and is handed down from previous generations to present generations. It entails many insights, perceptions, and intuitions, relating to agricultural practices, health, local environment, etc. It is often stressed that traditional storage methods are the product of decades, if not centuries of development, perhaps by trial and error, but certainly as a result of experience of the users and their ancestors. Traditional storage methods based on local resources, at producer level are usually well adapted to all the types of grain and the environment in which they are employed. Consequently, storage losses are often already minimal. In this paper, traditional method of grain storing practices at producer level prevalent in Himachal Pradesh is briefly discussed.

Keywords: Traditional storage structures, Traditional grain storage methods, Traditional grain storage structures, Himachal Pradesh

Indigenous method of rat proof grain storage by *Adi* tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

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Abstract

Rodents are important storage pest of NEH region due to availability of congenial habitat. The farmers of West Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh with their years of wisdom have been using an indigenous method of rat proof granary called *Nahu* in *Adi* language. The study reveals three scientific features of this structure used as rat proof grain storage. Use of stone pad at the bottom, wooden plate at the middle and airtight compartment at the top makes it a unique and innovative storage structure.

Keywords: Granary, Grain storage, *Nahu*, *Adi*, Rat proof storage, Rodents, Arunachal Pradesh

An appraisal of the traditional post-harvest pest management methods in Northeast Indian uplands

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Abstract

There has been a paradigm shift in recent years towards the use of natural, reliable, and sustainable products in grain protection; from the conventional use of synthetic toxic substances. The role of traditional knowledge in storage protection is being increasingly realized across the globe. The age-old traditional post-harvest pest management methods practiced by 6 indigenous communities in three hill districts of Meghalaya and Manipur of Northeast India, *Garo, Mao, Maram, Poumai, Thadou* and *Tangkhul* have been described. Applicability of the traditional methods in ensuring food security through reduction of post-harvest loss is discussed. It is opined here that due recognition should be given to traditional methods of an area in the post-harvest protection programme of that area. Continuous use of these methods by the indigenous communities through generations reflects a potential management option of grain protection for subsistence farmers, otherwise these could have perished long back soon after their development.

Keywords: Post-harvest, Traditional knowledge, Repellent, Rodenticide, Northeast India

Indigenous methods of seed conservation and protection in Uttarakhand Himalaya

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Abstract

In Uttarakhand Himalaya traditional agriculture is the mere way to meet the subsistence needs of the local farming communities. In traditional system of agriculture, local seed material of traditional crop varieties plays an important role for crop production. In such a situation, the protection of seed material and its conservation for future needs is also of very paramount importance. In order to protect the seed material and food grains, local practices by using indigenous plant material and other articles are very useful, eco-friendly and sustainable. In the present study, the investigators have surveyed the entire Uttarakhand Himalaya for documenting the indigenous seed and grain protection practices of the farm households. The indigenous practices are discussed here in the light of Western science. The present investigation was undertaken with the aim of objectives to provide protection to the knowledge of local farmers and document it before it's lost under the onslaught of development. Another important objective was to pave the way for values addition in the indigenous knowledge by the scientists, researchers and development workers for sustainable development.

Keywords: Indigenous pest control, Indigenous seed protection practices, Uttarakhand Himalaya

Traditional methods for storage of vegetables in cold arid region of Ladakh, India

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Abstract

The indigenous knowledge of the people in Ladakh for storage of selected vegetables is unique. Vegetable cultivation in Ladakh during winter is not practiced due to sub-zero temperature. To meet the vegetable needs during winter, tribal people in the region has gained wisdom in storage of selected crops like cabbage, potato, onion, radish and carrot, which comply well with the ecological and socioeconomic conditions of the region. Cabbage is stored in basement of house, tuber and root crops in underground pits and onion by hanging from the ceiling of the storehouse. Under sub-zero temperature, vegetables are stored in good conditions for 5-6 months. With the advancement of technology the cumbersome traditional method is undergoing changes and declining. However, the traditional method is time tested, zero-energy based and still being preferred due to low cost. This paper describes the ancient traditional method of vegetable storage still being practiced in Ladakh.

Keywords: Ladakh, Storage, Vegetable, Winter