ABSTRACT

Ensuring Food Security in Ghana – The Role of Maize Storage Systems

by

Dr. Paul Armah[1]

The level of food security in Ghana will continue to be determined by population growth and staple food production levels that is dependent on available inputs, production and storage efficiencies of traditional farmers, importation or receipt of food aid from overseas, etc. This study evaluates how maize storage efficiencies of traditional farmers and traders can contribute to the food security in Ghana by examining the economics of maize storage systems in Ghana.

There is no standard method for appraising the efficiencies of the traditional maize storage systems. As a result, this collaborative study between ASU and ISSER utilizes both direct and indirect data collection methods and analyses to allow cross-checking with each other. The data collection phase involves interviewing and observing traditional maize farmers and traders as they handle maize in the major maize producing and consumption regions of Ghana. Secondary data on maize storage costs and prices will be collected from higher institutions, libraries, Ministry of Agriculture, and other firms involved in maize distribution.

The goal of this proposal is to request grant for travel, research related expenses, wages for field assistants, consulting fees, etc. in order to conduct field research in Ghana on maize storage efficiencies. While data analyses will be done at Arkansas State University, the success of this project will undoubtedly depend on resulting policy recommendations and on its effective adoption by maize producers, traders and public agencies that will ultimately ensure security in staple maize in Ghana and serve as a model for other sub-Saharan countries facing food security problems.

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[1]**University:** Arkansas State University, Department of Agriculture.
Hosting Institution: Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, (ISSER), ***Ghana***.
Current Status: Field work not complete.