

COST OF BAD PRACTICES



WHY STANDARDS MATTER

Following the maize grain standards reduces risks and improves the returns of all those in the market chain:

- **Farmers** get better prices and reduce post-harvest losses. They can participate in the warehouse receipt system where they can store the maize until the price improves, and take a bank loan using their maize grain as surety.
- **Traders** get a reliable supply of high quality maize that they can sell to their clients. When the maize conforms to the standards and is available in large quantities it is easier to sell to high value markets with less risk of the grain being rejected by the buyer.
- **Processors** want a continuous and reliable supply of quality raw materials. Complying with standards, reduces waste and ensures that the final product will be of high quality and earn a higher price.
- **Consumers** get food that is safe and nutritious to eat.

BENEFIT OF GOOD PRACTICES



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This brochure was prepared in collaboration with a group of interested stakeholders including:

- aBi Trust
- Afro-KAI Ltd
- Aponye Uganda Ltd
- ASKAR General Merchandise Ltd
- Chemiphar Uganda Ltd
- Eastern Africa Grain Council
- INTERTEK Testing Services (EA) (Pty)
- Kilimo-Trust
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries
- Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives
- National Agricultural Advisory Services
- National Agricultural Research Organisation
- Rikolto - VECO
- SEATINI Uganda
- The Grain Council of Uganda
- Uganda National Commodity Exchange
- Uganda National Bureau of Standards
- Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Uganda National Farmers Federation
- USAID Feed the Future Uganda Commodity Production and Marketing Activity
- USAID Feed the Future Uganda Enabling Environment for Agriculture Activity
- World Food Programme

For further information contact:

Uganda National Bureau of Standards
Standards House, Bweyogerere

Plot 2-12 By Pass Link Bweyogerere Industrial and Business Park, P.O. Box 6329 Kampala
Tel: 0417 333 250, Toll Free Helpline: 0800133133
info@unbs.go.ug; www.unbs.go.ug



MAIZE IS MONEY: DRY IT PROPERLY

East African Community Maize Grain Standard



© 2018



East African Community Maize Grain Standard

MAIZE IS MONEY: DRY IT PROPERLY

GOOD PRACTICES



Harvest maize when it is dry



Dry maize on tarpaulins, canvas, mats or in cribs



Cover your maize during rain

STANDARD IMPACTED

MOISTURE CONTENT:

Moisture content is a measure of how much water is in the grain (how wet it is). It is measured with a moisture meter.



Characteristic	Maximum Limit		
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Moisture, % m/m	13.5		

ORGANOLEPTIC (APPEARANCE AND SMELL):

For all grades, maize should appear clean and bright with a natural smell.



AFLATOXINS AND FUMONISINS

Aflatoxins and Fumonisin are poisons released by certain moulds. Moulds come from soil and air and grow when grain is handled poorly. They can not be seen by the naked eye and have to be tested by a qualified personnel.



Aflatoxins can cause cancer and liver damage. At high levels of concentration, it can cause death. Aflatoxin B1 is highly potent.

	Maximum Limit
Mycotoxin	All Grades
Total aflatoxins	10 µg/kg(ppb)
Aflatoxins B1	5 µg/kg(ppb)
Fumonisin	2 mg/kg(ppm)

DISCOLOURED GRAIN

These are kernels which are damaged by heat, frost or water.

Characteristic	Maximum Limit		
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Discoloured grains, % m/m	1.5	2.0	2.5

BAD PRACTICES



Do not harvest maize until it is dry



Do not dry your maize on bare ground, tarmac or on the roof top



Do not leave maize out in the rain