

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



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- Uganda National Farmers Federation
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- World Food Programme

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MAIZE IS MONEY: MAXIMISE PRODUCTION

East African Community Maize Grain Standard



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GOOD PRACTICES



Plant improved / certified seeds of the same variety with proper spacing

Step 1

Step 2



Apply fertilisers properly

Step 3

Step 4



Step 5



Weed on time



Control pests



STANDARD IMPACTED

MAIZE OF OTHER COLOURS:

Other colours means all good maize grains which have pink, yellow, or red colour that covers more than 50% of the surface of the grain.

Characteristic	Maximum Limit		
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Yellow, % m/m	5		
Red, % m/m	5		
White, % m/m	2		



Other Colour / Other Varieties

Note: The parameter maize of other colours should only be tested after removal of defective grains.

IMMATURE/SHRIVELLED GRAINS:

Grains which are under-developed, thin and papery in appearance (shrivelled over the entire surface and not just over the embryo area).

Characteristic	Maximum Limit		
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Immature/ shrivelled, % m/m	1.0	2.0	3.0



Immature/shrivelled Grains

FREE FROM TOXIC WEED SEEDS:

These are seeds such as *Crotalaria (Crotalaria spp.)*, Corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago L.*), Castor bean (*Ricinus communis L.*), Jimson weed (*Datura spp.*) which can have a damaging or dangerous effect on health, sensory properties or technological performance.



BAD PRACTICES



Do not plant mixed seeds



Do not harvest immature maize



Do not let weeds grow



Do not plant maize in the same field every season