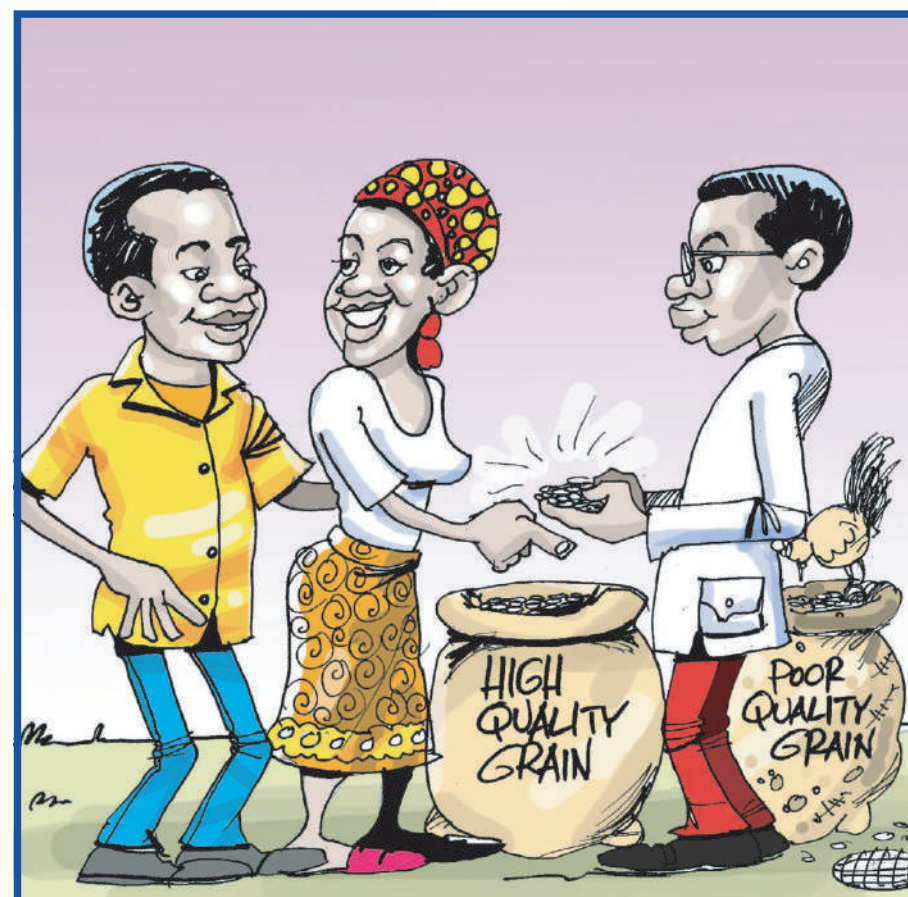


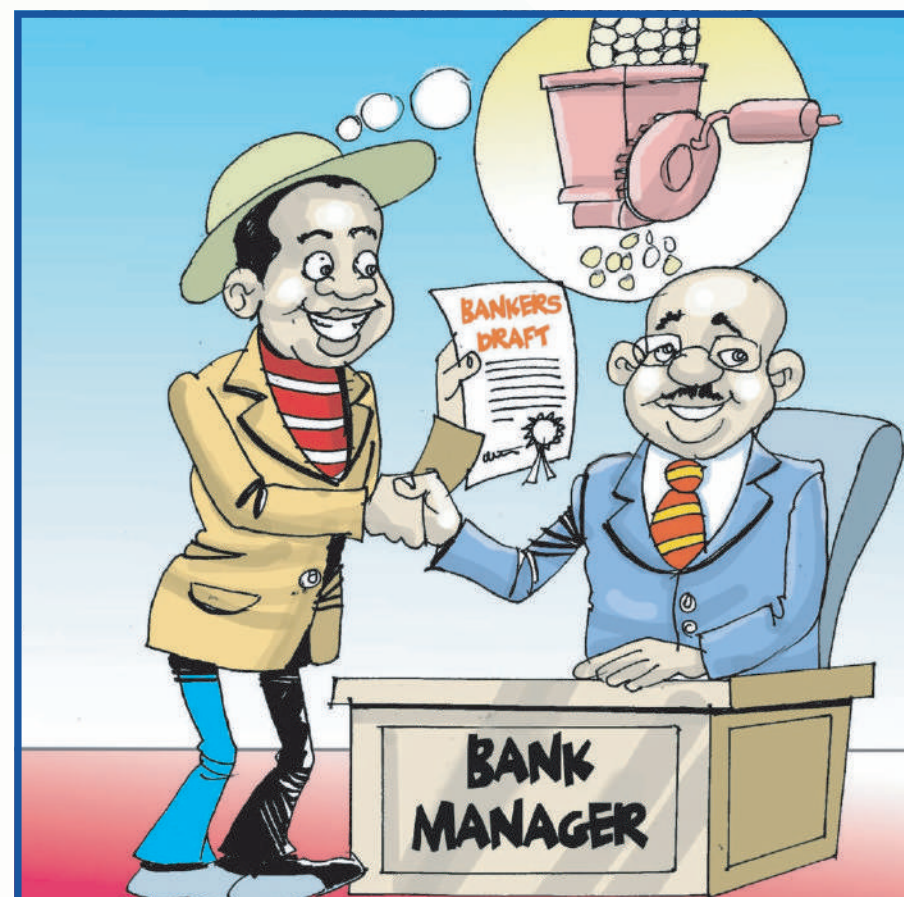
Sustainable Farming and Inclusive Markets

Good Quality Grain for Better Markets - A

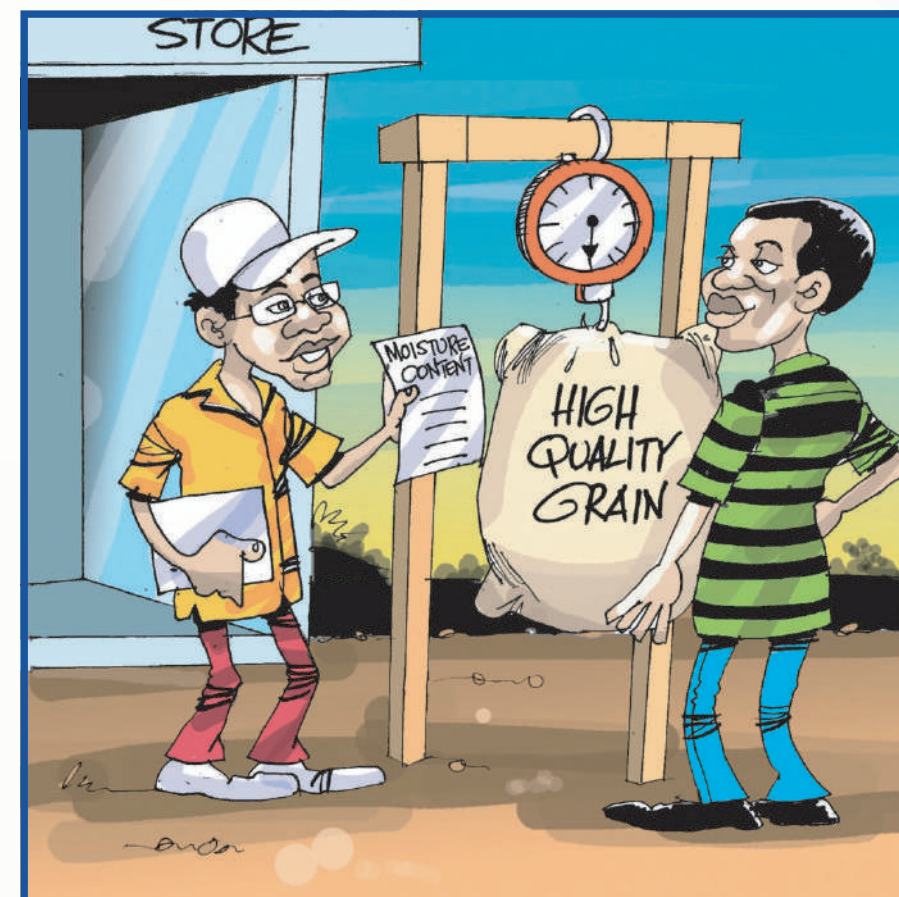
A1. Produce better quality grain for a higher income



Find out what grain quality is needed to sell into a more rewarding market.



Invest in improved postharvest technology for greater productivity and higher quality.



Sell to a buyer who will pay a better price for high quality grain.



Improve your quality of life.

A2. Prepare yourself before harvesting



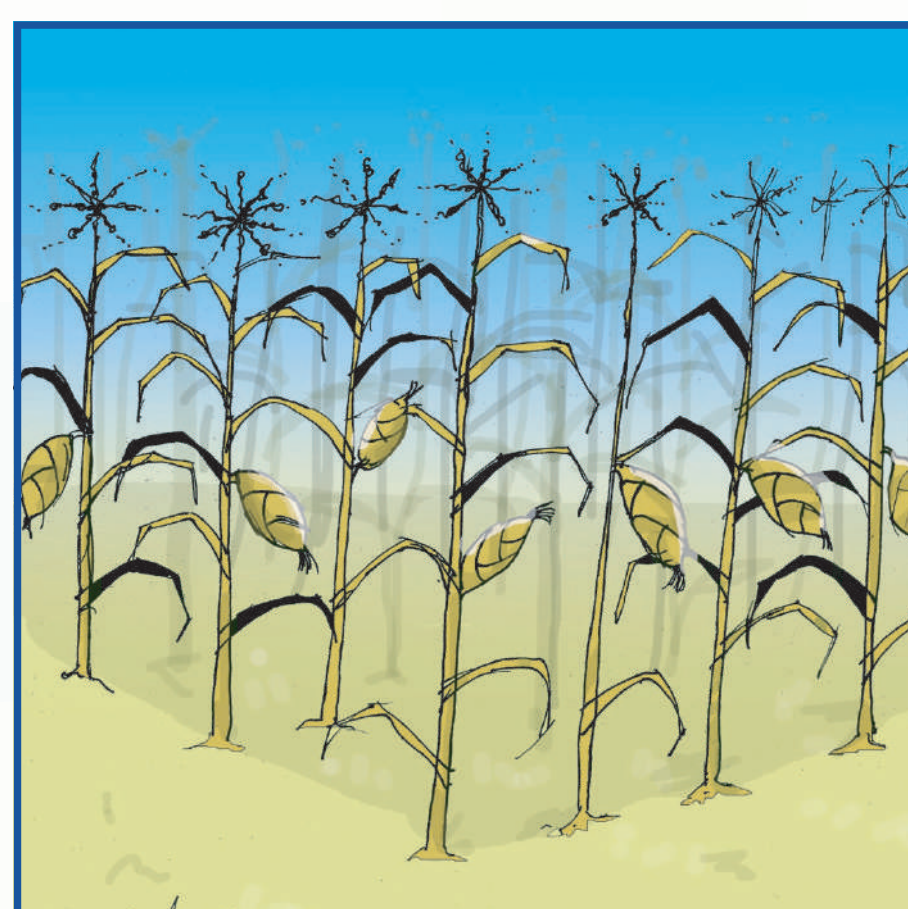
Planning ahead is essential. Make sure you have all the necessary equipment, know where the drying and shelling will be done and how the grain will be stored. Mend all holes in sacks and make sure stores are in good repair.



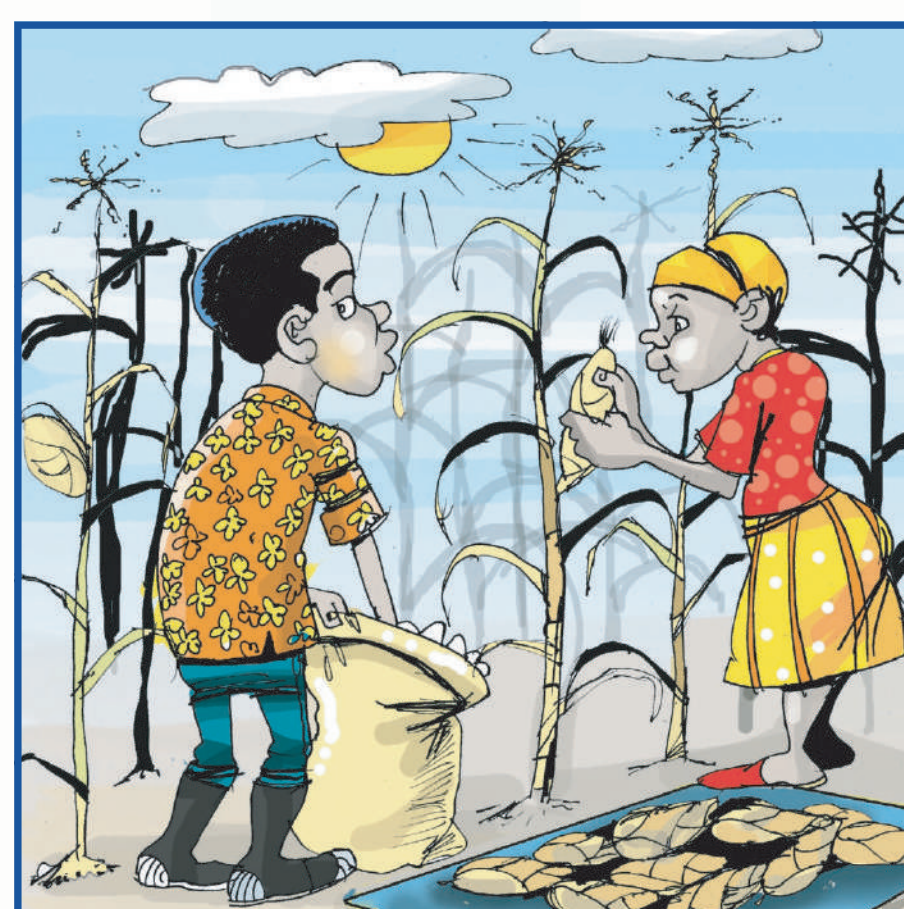
Good hygiene is essential, if you will put your grain into sacks then make sure they are cleaned in advance. If you are using a store then make sure the residues of the previous harvest are removed.



A3. Harvest the grain on time



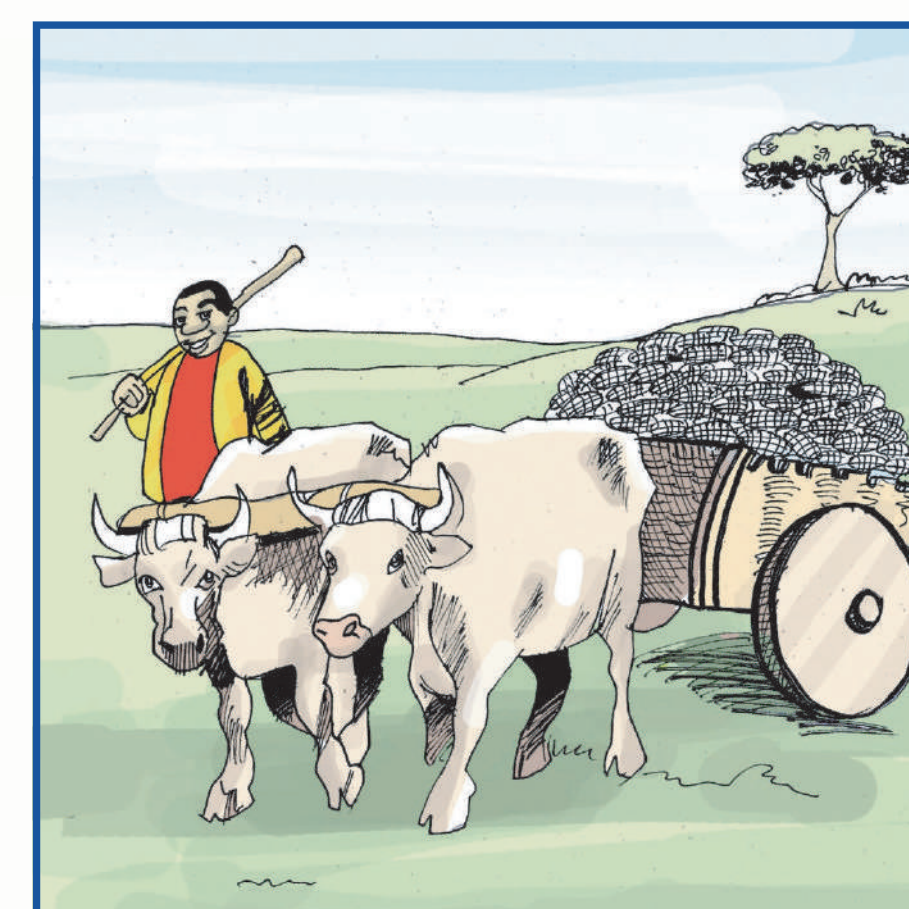
Harvest on time, when the crop is mature - some cobs start to droop; bean pods turn yellow.



Harvest mature cereals or beans on a sunny day and place on a mat, tarpaulin or in sacks.



If rain delays the maize harvest, then prevent water from entering the cobs by turning the cobs down.

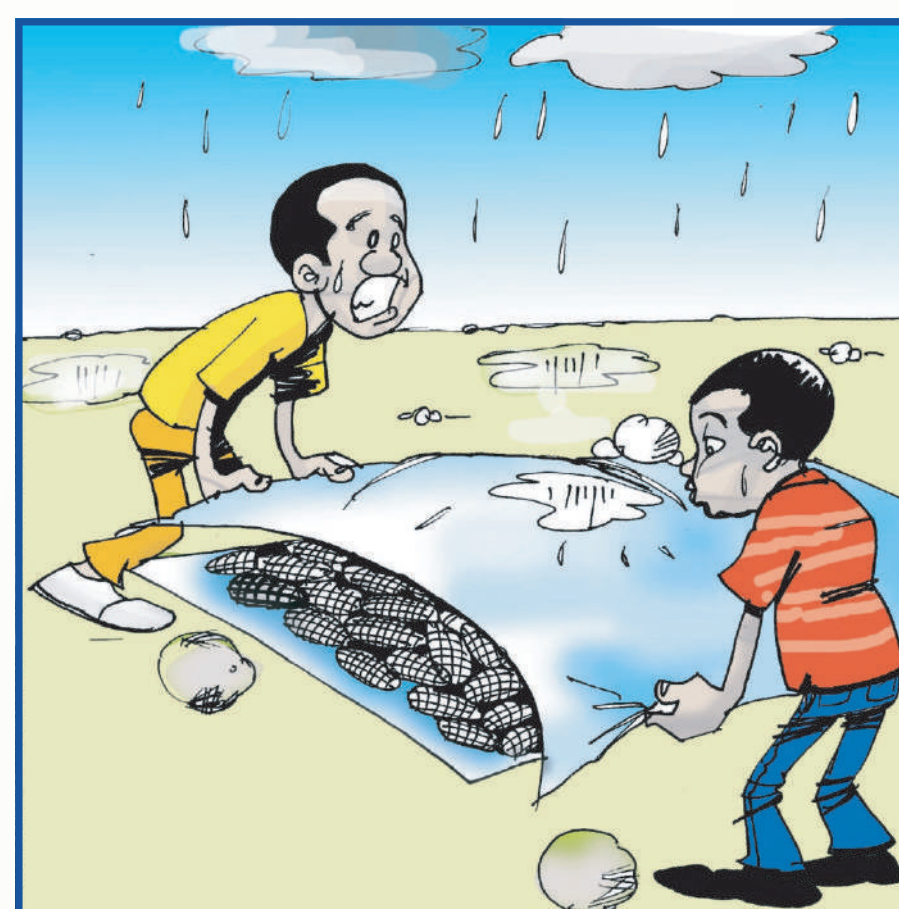
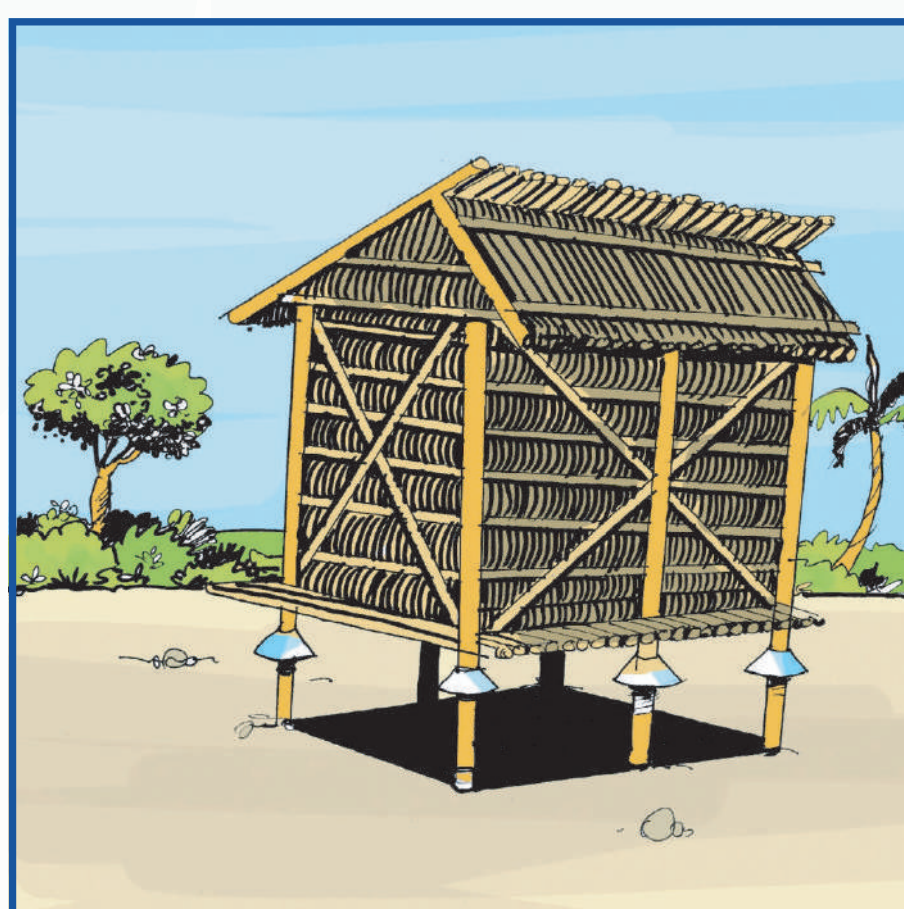


As soon as possible transport crops from field to the homestead for further drying.

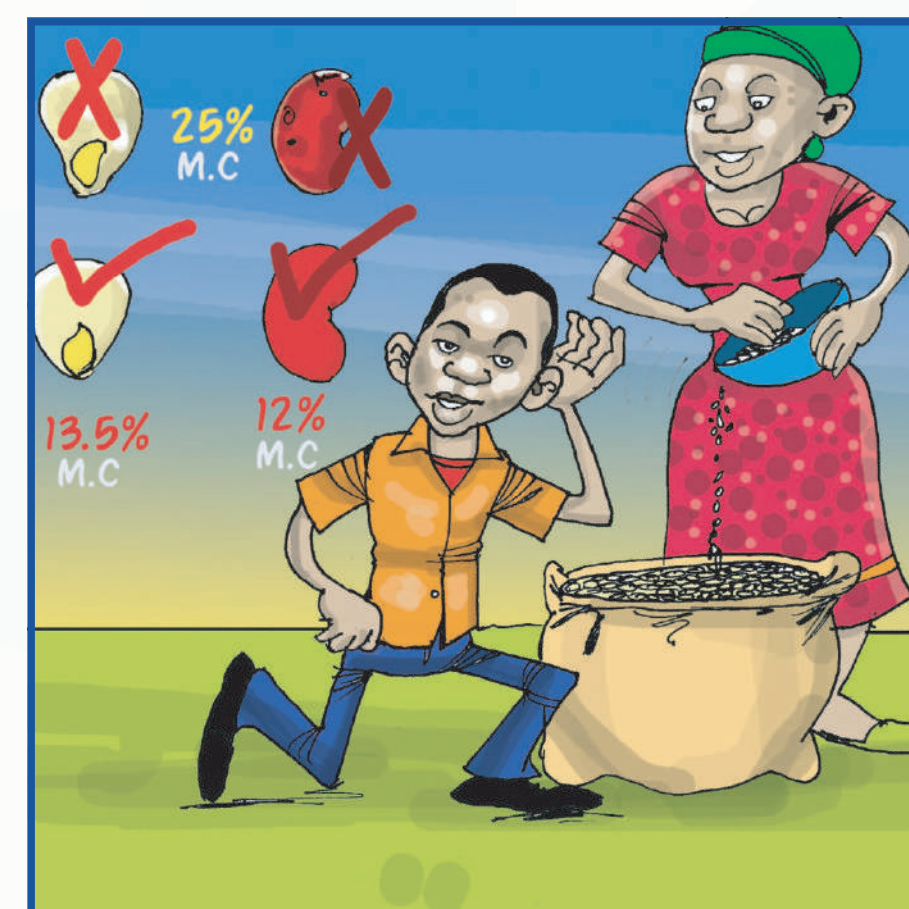
A4. Dry the grain



Dry cereals or beans on mats, tarpaulins or racks so they are not in contact with the ground and make sure farm animals are kept away... or use a maize drying crib for protected drying.



Don't let drying grain get wet, cover with a tarpaulin if it rains.



Dry grain until it is sufficiently dry, for example cereal grains 13.5%, beans 12% moisture content.

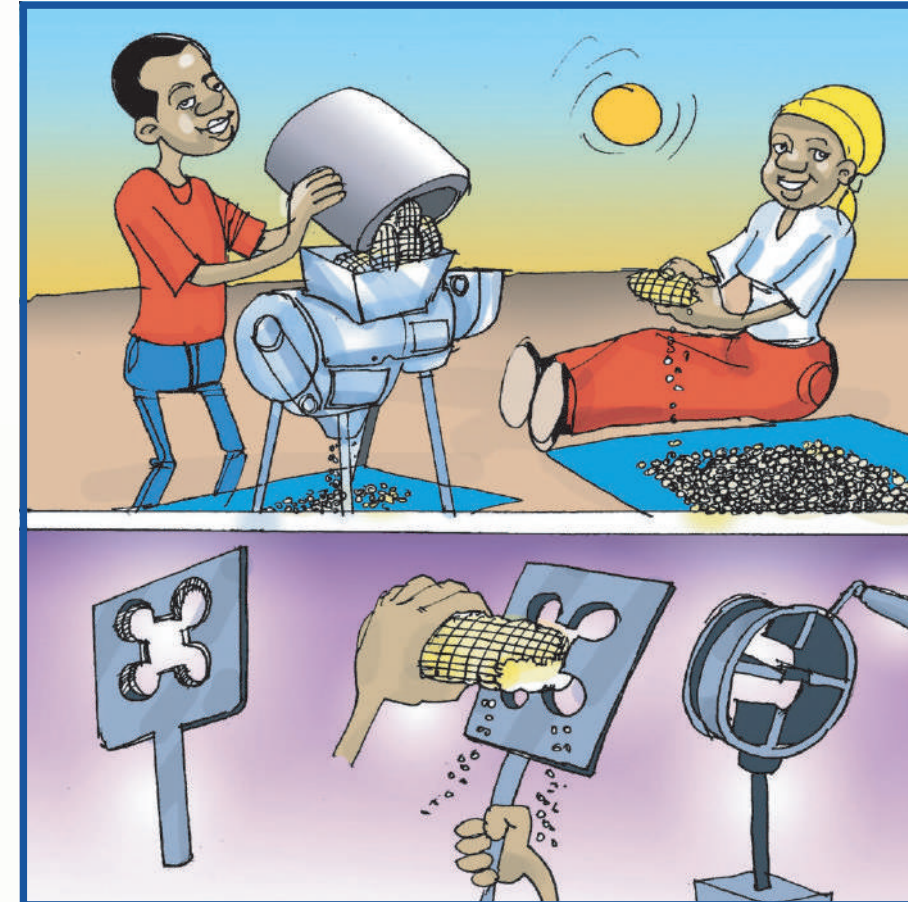
Sustainable Farming and Inclusive Markets

Good Quality Grain for Better Markets - B

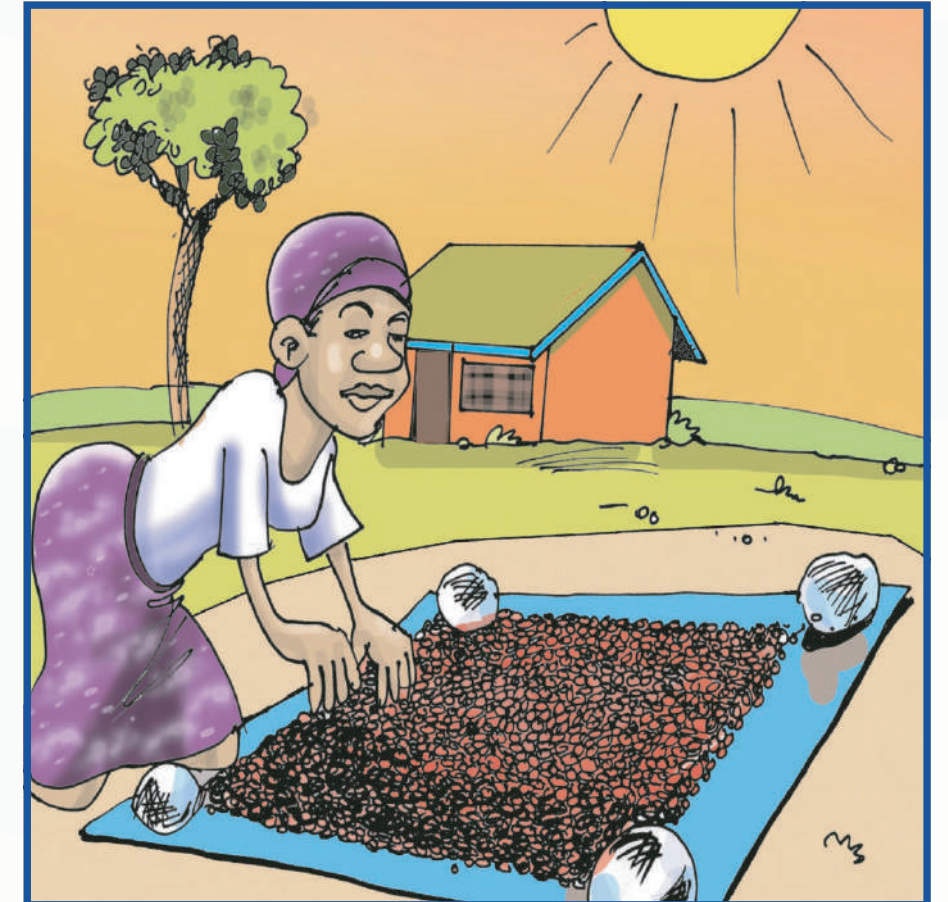
B1. Shell/thresh the grain



Use hands to shell beans or dehusk maize cobs. If any maize or beans are damaged then consume them, feed to animals or if unfit for consumption then destroy them, do **not** place in storage.



Shell maize cobs by hand or with a mechanical sheller to reduce damage to grain. Don't beat with sticks.



Dry grain further if it is above the required moisture content.

B2. Clean the grain



Winnow grain or use a sieve to remove chaff and foreign matter, and broken grain. Be careful to remove insect damaged grain, mouldy grain and chaff and burn it. Other damaged grain may be fed to animals.



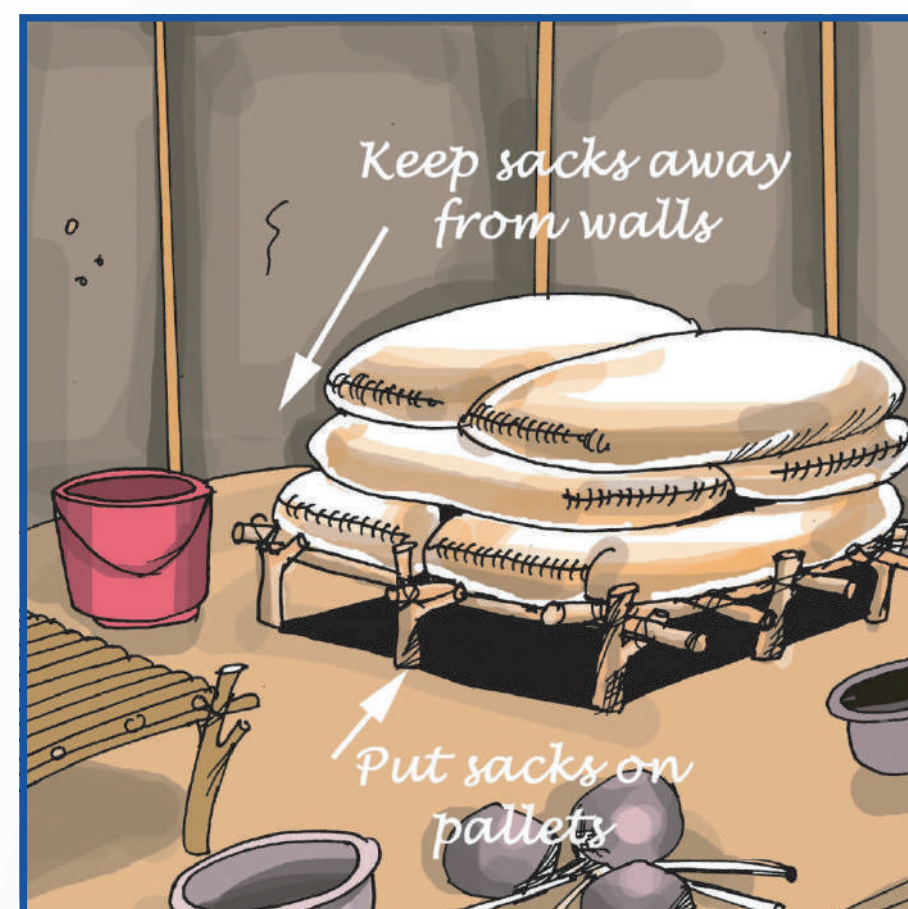
B3. Ensure good storage at home



If storing grain in sacks for more than 3 months then admix an insecticidal dust (see Sub Section 5.13).



Put grain in sacks and sew them shut.

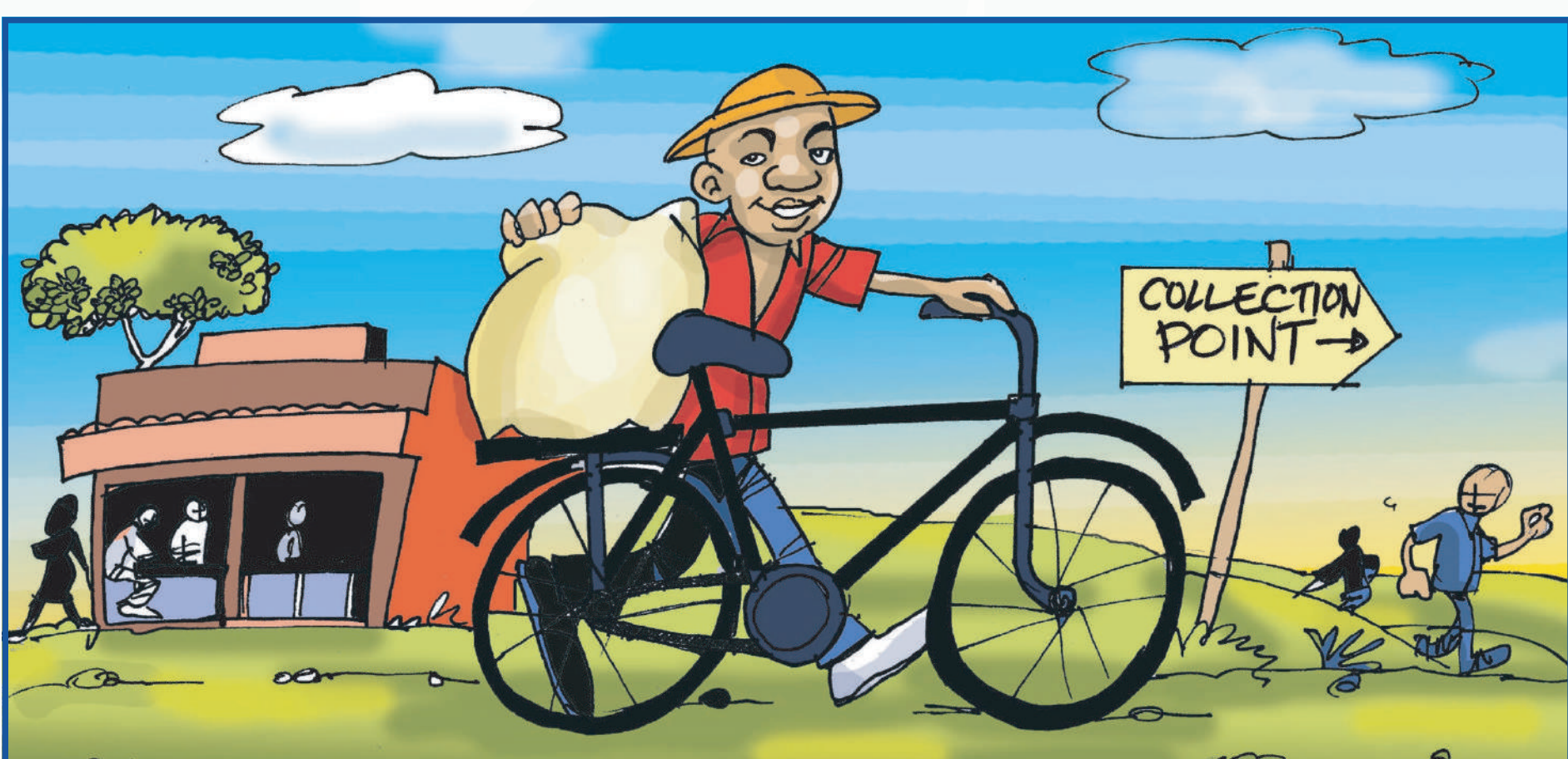


In the house, store sacks on pallets of sticks or stones, away from walls. Check regularly for any problems.



To store grain in bulk, place in a silo or other container and follow instructions to prevent insect attack.

B4. Move to collection site



When you are ready to sell the grain, move it in sacks to the collection point using a bicycle or other transport.



At the collection point your grain will be stored carefully with that of other farmers before being delivered to the grain buyer.