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Farming and Ecology

Stores Management | 14 4354

No national economy lives from hand to mouth: stores of grain, for example, amount worldwide to more than 7 million tonnes. Some years, as much as 80 percent of the harvest in tropical countries is consumed by insects where it is stored. Which explains why the GTZ, the German Organization for Technical Co-operation, has made reducing post-harvest losses one of its prime aims. Since 1991 the trend has been away from giant silos, and interest has focused instead on small farmers, since they are the keepers of 80 percent of all the stores in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

- 01 Unbidden Guests
- 02 Back to the Future
- 03 Preserving Techniques for House and Farm
- 04 Gas against Parasites
- 05 Silos for the Masses
- 06 High-Tech Storekeeping
- 07 Towards a Global Network

Seeds | 84 4433

The population explosion triggered the development of higher-yielding varieties of rice, maize and wheat. Genetic engineers now determine how much or how little water a plant must take up, how seeds germinate, and how successfully they can be stored. A few seed banks worldwide ensure the preservation of the genotype of useful plants. For other scientists, seeds are the “fingerprints” of the history of climate. They provide anthropologists with information about the development of teeth and the digestive system.

This set of films in the series **Farming and Ecology** looks at seeds as the basis of all agricultural activity and provides an insight into the current state of varieties research. Like the previous series, it looks at laboratories and the industry, shows examples of the work of NGOs in the less developed countries, and visits scientists and students from these countries currently working in German research institutes.

- 01 From Grass to Supergrass
- 02 The Seed Begins to Grow
- 03 Help for the Farmers
- 04 The Hope Principle
- 05 The Responsibility of the Industrial Nations
- 06 Gene Technology
- 07 A Future out of the Past