

Control of moths in stored grains

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- The Angoumois grain moth is the most serious pest injurious to rice, both in the field and storage.
- This moth also attacks other cereals like maize, wheat and sorghum.
- The infestation may reach serious levels before the grains are transported to the storage godowns resulting in around 25 per cent loss in weight and seed viability. Internal pest
- The larva is an internal borer of the whole grain, feeding on the starchy part. Severely infested material emits an unpleasant smell and looks unhealthy in appearance.
- Grains are often covered with scales shed by the moths. The grains are practically hollow and filled with larval excreta and other refuse making it unfit for consumption.
- The adult is a small, straw coloured moth. The female can lay an average of 150 eggs on unhusked paddy grains.
- They hatch in a week's period. Newly hatched caterpillar is yellowish white in colour with a brown head capsule. It soon bores into the grain and feeds on its contents.
- Larval stage lasts for about three weeks. Before pupation, the larva constructs a silken cocoon in the cavity made during feeding and turns into reddish brown pupa.
- After a period of 4-7 days, the adult emerges. Entire life cycle is completed in 30-35 days.
- Several generations are completed in a year. Adults are short-lived and can be seen flying about in large numbers in storage bags and on the surface of grains.

Management

- Drying the grains under sun for three days to reduce moisture content below 12 per cent is suggested.
- The jute bags to be used for storing grains have to be dipped in insecticidal solution of fenitrothion 50EC at 5ml/20 liters of water.
- Application of dichlorvos (DDVP) 76SC is recommended on the surface of stored jute bags by dissolving 7ml/lit. of water and the spray solution is sprayed at three lit/100 sq.m.
- Male moths can also be caught in sticky traps baited with female sex pheromone.

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