

Traditional storage structures still going strong

This page represents a small sample of the information on traditional storage structures that was sent to us by our readers. It is clear that traditional structures for storing agricultural produce are still very common and important in many parts of the world. They have been developed and adapted over generations and are usually well suited to local conditions.



Photo: Balaraj NIKKU

Communities in the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh (India) use this traditional barn for storing dried paddy grains. The structure is made from bamboo covered by mud and a thin outer layer of dung. The roof is made of paddy straw.



Photo: A. Pouchepparadjou

In parts of India this indigenous storage structure called kudhir is used for in-house grain storage. The kudhir is made of burnt clay.



Photo: Mohammed A. Abubakari

Mud silos are very efficient for grain storage. In Northern Ghana, grains are stored for up to one year in these structures, without significant damage to the produce.

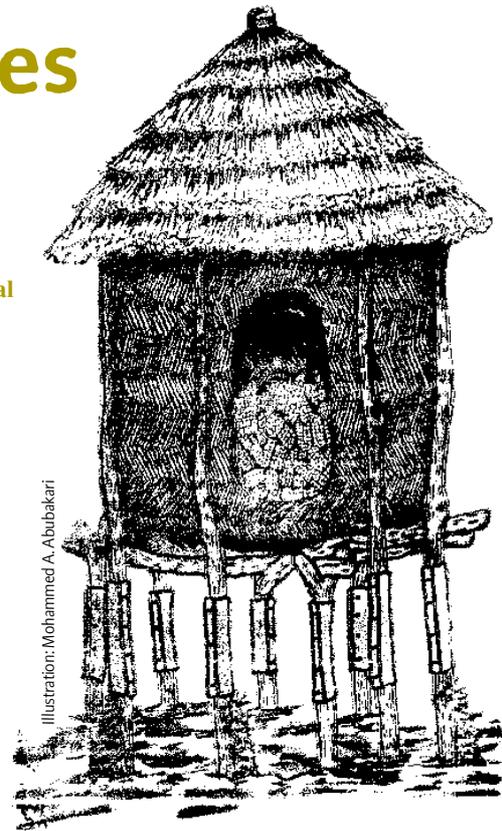


Illustration: Mohammed A. Abubakari

Improved kanbon with unshelled maize.

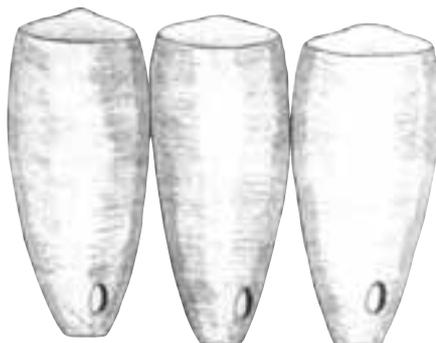


Photo: Cobena

In Ethiopia cereals can be stored in ventilated baskets that are placed on an elevated platform made of wooden poles. Note the rat guards on the legs of the platform. The basket has a thatched roof. Bekoji (Arsi), Ethiopia.

Structure for storing root and tuber crops. Bekoji (Arsi), Ethiopia.

Illustration: Adugna Haile



In Eritrea the main in-house grain storage structures in traditional houses are called koffo. These structures are oval shaped, 1.5-2 metres high, and made of cow dung and ash. More than one type of grain can be stored in them.

Photo: Annamalai Anandan



In the hilly tracts of Tamil Nadu (India), a modified out-house structure called seru is becoming more and more popular for storing larger amounts of different grains meant for own consumption, seed or sale. The inner space is divided with mud walls in different compartments, and different grains are stored in separate compartments.