SPECIES COMPOSITION AND RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF INSECT PESTS ASSOCIATED WITH STORED MAIZE IN TELANGANA

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In India, maize is the third most important food crop after rice and wheat. Maize crop is mostly grown in all the districts of Telangana state. Earlier studies conducted revealed that more than 37 species of arthropod pests are associated with maize seed in storage. Hence, a survey of government and private godowns was conducted during 2015-2016 in major maize growing districts of Telangana state to find out the species composition and infestation level of insect pests associated with stored maize at three different storage durations *viz.*, six months, one year and two years. Insect pests detected during the survey of short term storage (six months and one year) godowns of maize were rice weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae*; lesser grain borer, *Rhyzopertha dominica*; rust red flour beetle, *Tribolium castaneum*; rice moth, *Corcyra cephalonica* and angoumois grain moth, *Sitotroga cereallela*. Similar insect pests were recorded in two years old stocks except *Corcyra cephalonica*. *Sitophilus oryzae* was found to be more abundant in all the godowns and its relative abundance varied with duration of storage in godowns, type of seed, type of storage container used, the source of primary infestation at field and cross infestation at godowns.

Keywords: Maize, Stored grain insects, Survey, Species composition

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