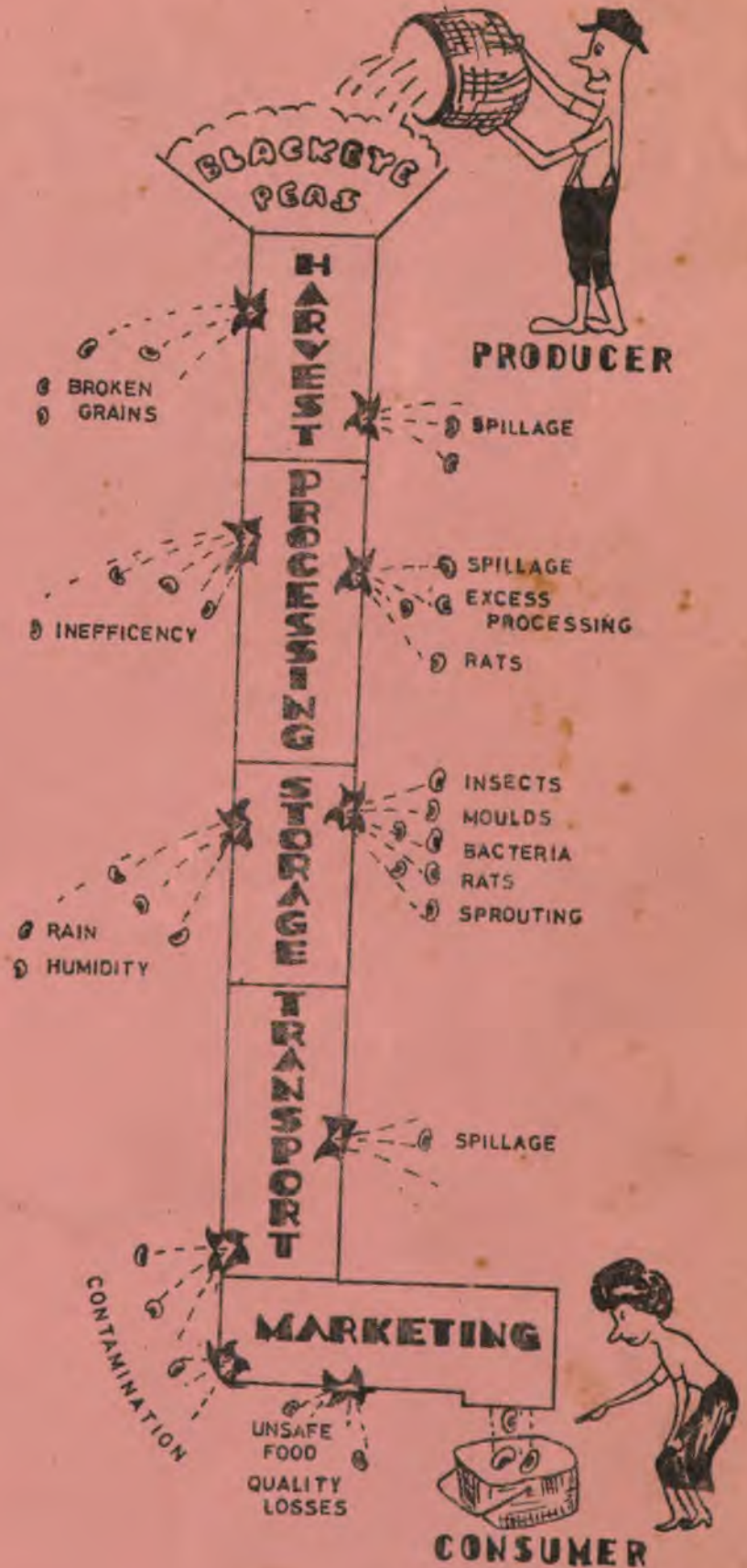


IICA-C  
15 LINE 1980

POST  
HARVEST  
FOOD  
LOSSES



Prepared by: Agricultural Communication Office  
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248 New Garden Street,  
GEORGETOWN, GUYANA.

**POST HARVEST FOOD LOSSES**

**IICA-CID**

**15 ENE 1980**

**Produced Jointly**

**by the**

**Ministry of Agriculture, GUYANA**

**and the**

**Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences (IICA)**

**December, 1977**



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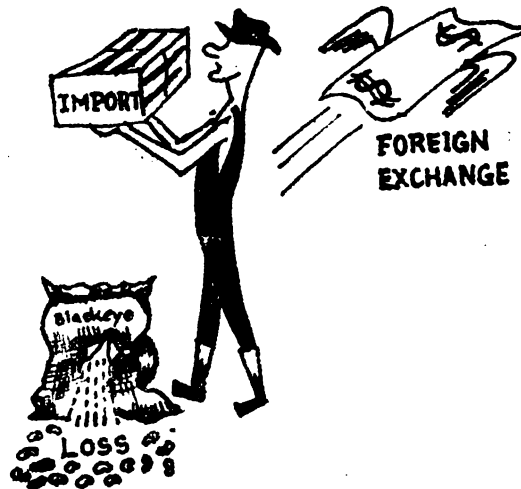
# Do you know?

\* That on September 19, 1975 the United Nations General Assembly passed this resolution?

"The further reduction of post harvest food losses in developing countries should be undertaken as a matter of priority, with a view of reaching at least 50% reduction by 1985. All countries and competent international organisations should co-operate financially and technically in the effort to achieve this objective."



\* That Food Losses necessitate importation and consequently increase the outflow of foreign exchange?

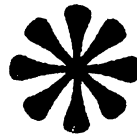


\* That Food Losses can cause higher consumer prices, and thus increase the cost of living?

\* That although Food Losses are usually measured on a weight basis, many losses show a higher percentage nutrient loss than weight loss figures alone would show?



\* That in order to reduce post harvest losses it is necessary to reduce losses at every step along the chain that connects the producer to the consumer?





# Do you know?

\* That there are four types of losses?

- 1 Quantitative loss
  - loss in weight or volume
  - easily measured
- 2 Qualitative loss
  - changes in quality - more difficult to measure
  - can be valued by grading standards
- 3 Nutritional loss
  - loss in nutritional value
- 4 Seed loss
  - loss in germination ability



\* That most farmers

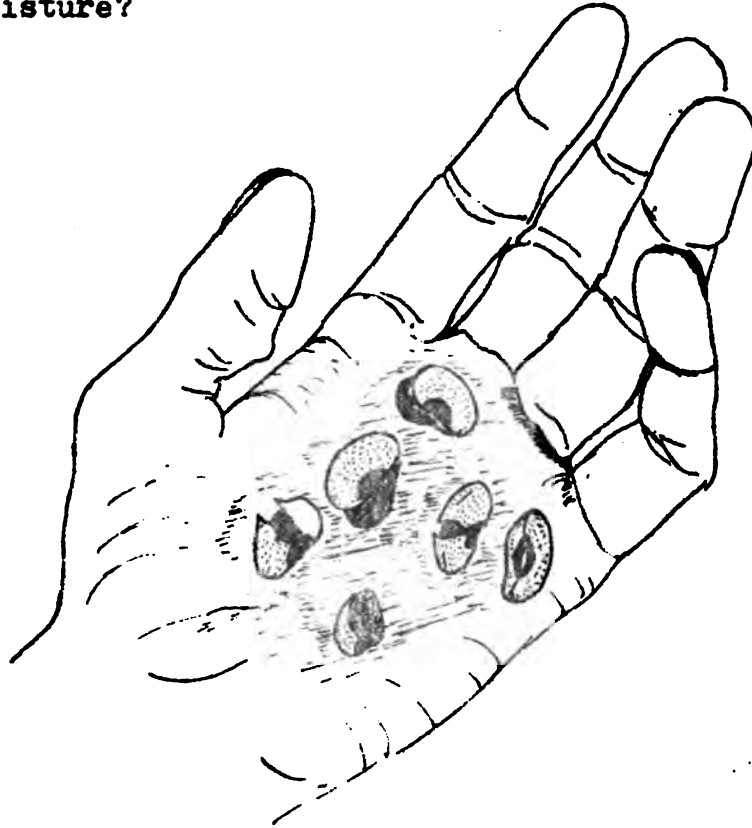
- do not know that losses occur?
- or
- know that losses occur but simply accept them?



- or
- are concerned about losses but do nothing although they know what to do?
- or
- are concerned about losses but do not know what to do about them?

\* That harvest losses can occur

- by spillage?
- by harvesting with the wrong equipment, or the equipment not being properly adjusted, or the operator not knowing how to operate the equipment efficiently?
- by harvesting at the wrong time, that is, when the grain is at too high or too low moisture content?
- by combine harvesters breaking or cracking grains at low moisture?



**Cracked and broken grains**

- by combine harvesters bruising or crushing grain at high moisture?



# Do you know?

\* That threshing can also cause losses through

- spilling?
- cracking?
- breaking?
- bruising?



\* That losses at processing (cleaning and grading) can be caused by

- improper cleaning?
- excessive cleaning?
- spillage?



\* That losses in storage can be caused by

- insects?
- rats?
- contamination by chemicals or rat urine, etc.?
- incomplete drying which helps to speed up the growth of insects and moulds, and can cause grain to sprout?



\* That transportation losses can occur through

- spillage, that is, by bags or other containers bursting?
- rain. That is the grain becoming soaked?





- \* That marketing losses can be caused by
  - contamination?
  - spillage?
  - bad packaging?



- \* That fungi and moulds produce toxins in beans?

Toxins can be harmful to man and to animals.



## Do you know?

\* That insects (weevils, cockroaches) act as carriers for a number of public health diseases?



\* That insects feed on the part of the bean that is of greatest value to man, causing great reduction in nutritional value?



\* That insect fragments and excreta give rise to poor appearance and bad smell and hence low consumer acceptability?



\* That rat excreta give rise to poor appearance and bad smell

and hence less consumer acceptability?



\* That rat-attacked beans can give rise to a disease called leptospirosis?



\* That losses occur in the house (the consumer's home)  
- if the product is not properly packaged



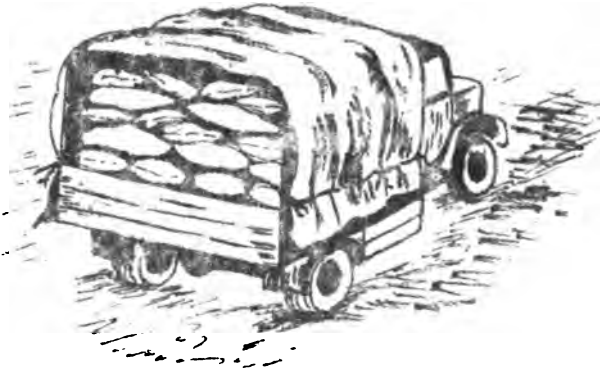
- if the product is not properly stored?  
- if the housewife prepares quantities in excess of the family's needs?





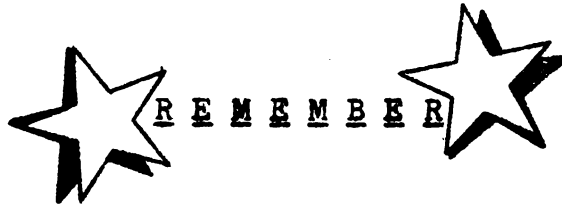
## Do you know?

- \* That losses can be reduced
  - by harvesting at the correct time?
  - by using the right machines with the proper adjustments?
  - by training operators how to use machines efficiently?
  - by taking care when threshing, cleaning and grading grain?
  - by proper drying to reduce the growth of fungus and insects?
  - by fumigating to kill insect pests in storage?
  - by storing in clean, dry places?
  - by eliminating rats and other pests from storage?
  - by using adequate and efficient transportation facilities?



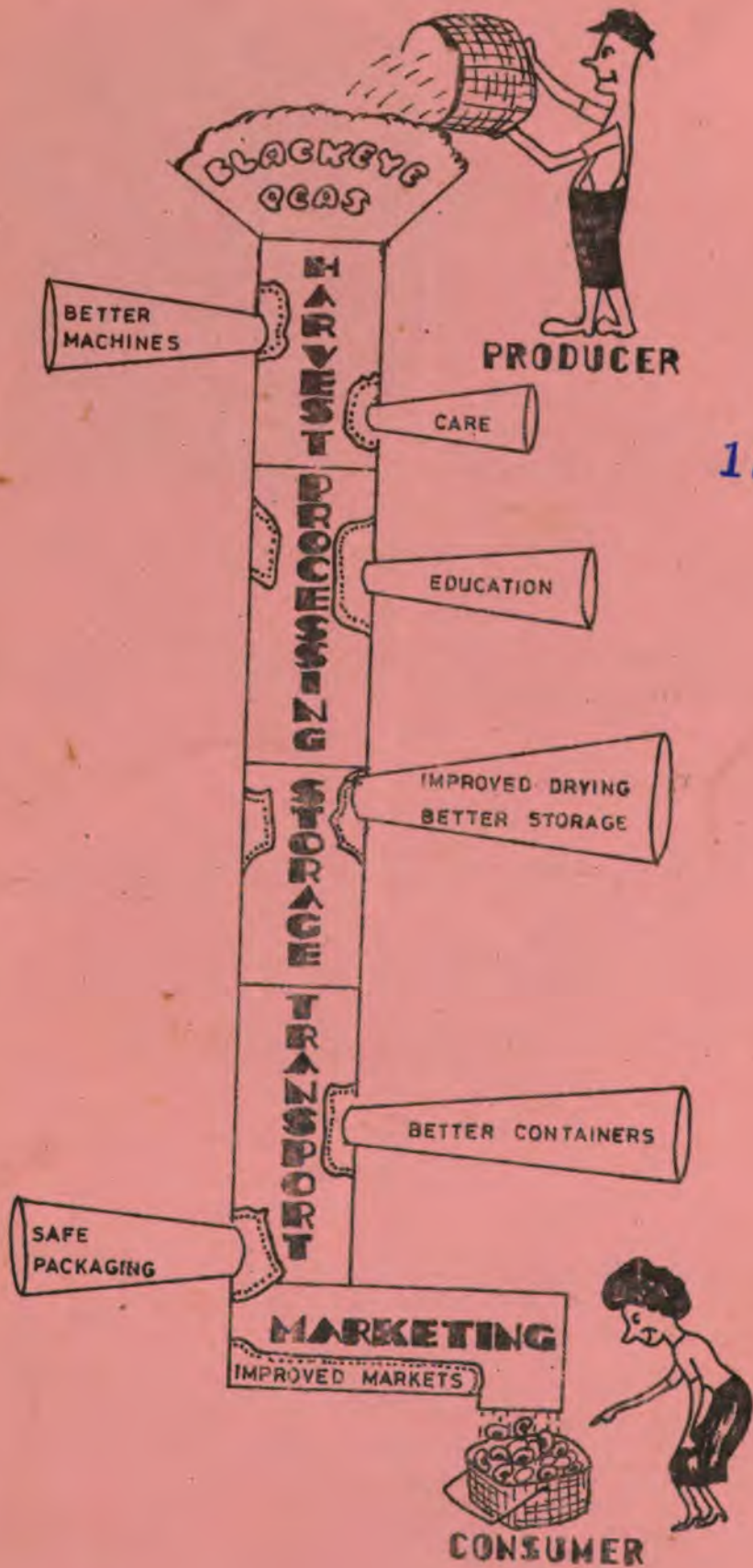
- by taking care when on-loading and off-loading produce?
- by storing and transporting grain in clean containers?
- by taking care that containers (bags, etc.) offer adequate protection and permit easy handling?





- 1 Plant at the right time so that the crop can be harvested during the dry season.
- 2 If harvesting or threshing by machine, make frequent checks to ensure that there is minimum breakage and spillage.
- 3 Grain must be properly dried (at least 14% moisture) before storing.
- 4 Ensure storage area and storage containers are clean before placing grain in storage.
- 5 Store in dry places.
- 6 Keep rats and other pests out of storage areas.
- 7 Avoid getting grain wet during transportation.
- 8 Avoid unnecessary delays between operations

\*\*\*\*\*



15 ENE 1980