

Lesiolo Grain Handlers Limited



LESIOLO GRAIN HANDLERS LIMITED

GRAIN HANDLING- THE AFLATOXIN ISSUE

A Presentation By:

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INTRODUCTION

- Maize is the leading grain produced in Kenya and the most commonly affected grain by Aflatoxin.
- Maize production relies on small scale farmers.
- Poor post-harvest management of grain has been identified as the leading cause of Aflatoxin and grain losses.
- LGHL's role is to provide excellent post harvest management services to minimize losses.
- We dry, clean, fumigate and store Maize, Wheat and Barley in our state-of-art facility.



Suppression of Aflatoxin

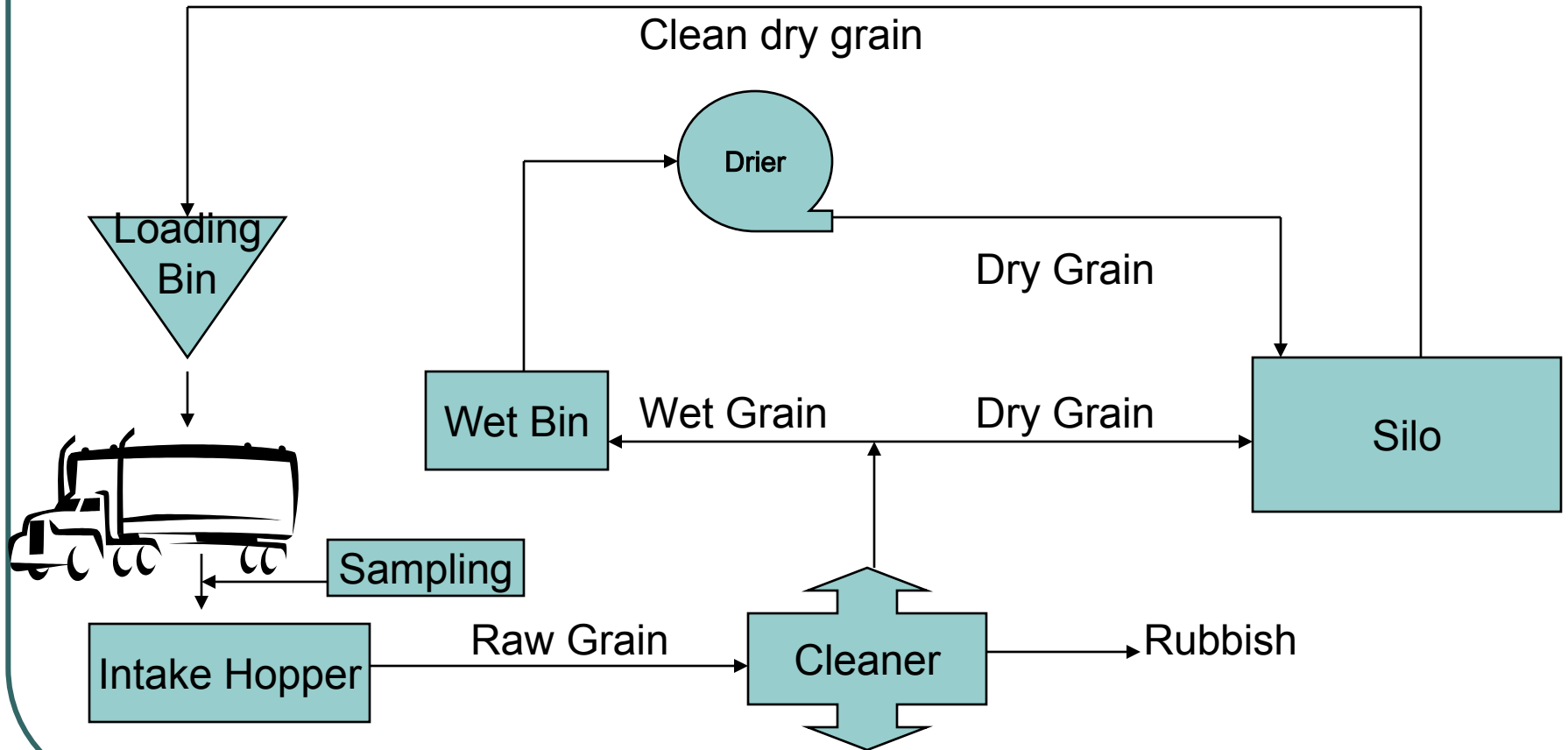
- *Critical Processes in Grain Handling*

- Pre-intake sampling and Grain Analysis.
- Removal of fines and broken grain.
- Prompt drying.
- Cooling of grain after drying.
- Sound storage practices:
 - ✓ Cleaning of storage bins
 - ✓ Pest Management
 - ✓ Aeration of stored grain
 - ✓ Maintaining stored grain below 13% moisture content.

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GRAIN HANDLING PROCESS





Our Experience

- Most large scale farmers harvest at 30% moisture content.
- Small scale farmers harvest at moistures of 16% or less.
- Small scale farmers were most commonly affected by the toxin causing fungus than large-scale farmers.
- 1 out of 7 trucks of small scale farmers rejected on the basis of RDD.
- RDD is linked to other mycotoxins.
- Aflatoxin analysis is done for in-house operations rather than each individual truck in taken.
- Small-scale farmers still unaware of consequences of poor grain handling practice.

The Gap



- Educating farmers on post-harvest management.
- Enabling access to facilities, funding, and structured markets e.g. Warehouse Receipting Systems
- Provision of extension, consultancy and advisory services.
- Establishment of a structured easily accessible Aflatoxin monitoring system.
- Subsidy on Aflatoxin testing equipment.



References

- Sumner, P., and Lee Dewey. 2003. *Reducing Aflatoxin in corn during harvest and storage*. Cooperative Extension Service, University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/B1231.pdf>
- Export Processing Zones Authority, 2005. *Grain Production in Kenya 2005*. Export Processing Zones Authority. <http://www.epzakenya.com/UserFiles/File/GrainReport.pdf>