

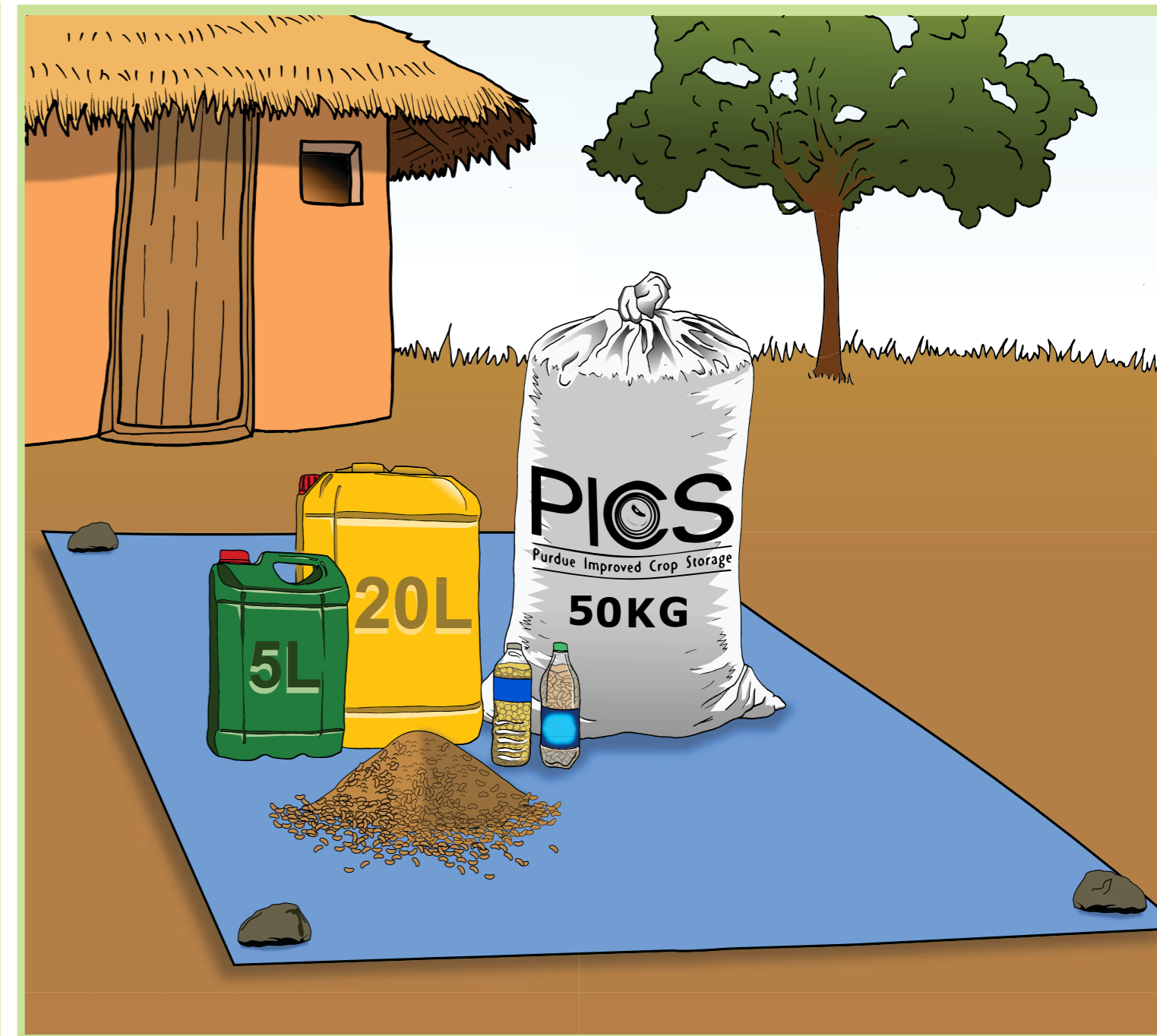
HERMETIC SEED STORAGE IN PICS BAGS



1 Good quality seed must be grown, harvested, and processed correctly.



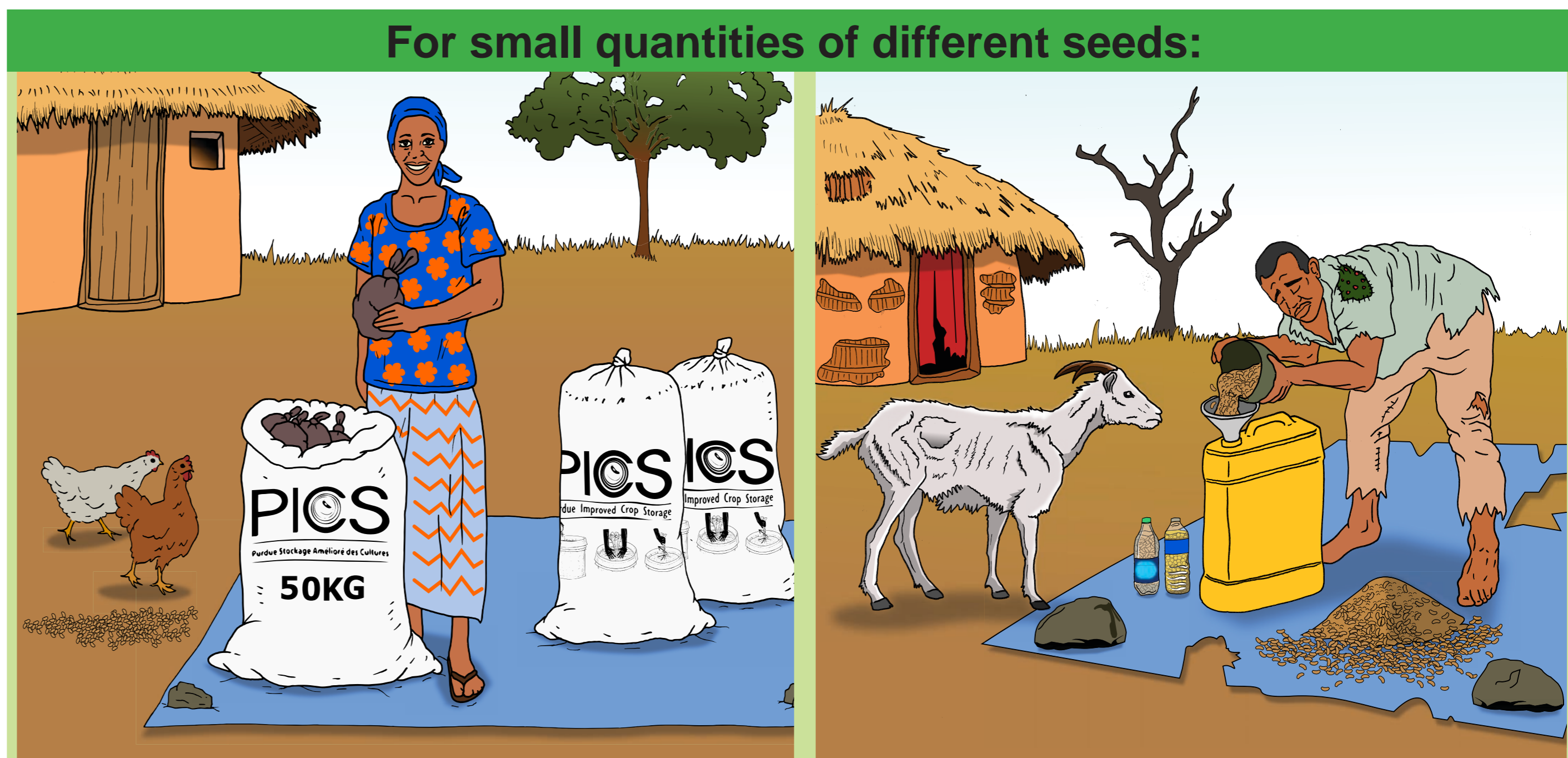
2 Quality seed must be clean and dry. Dry to the recommended moisture content (e.g. 13% for maize).



3 Use hermetic containers (e.g., PICS bags, jerrycans, bottles, etc.) to store seed.



4 For large quantities, use PICS bags.



For small quantities of different seeds:

5 Pack each variety separately in small bags and put them inside a PICS bag.

or Use small hermetic containers such as jerrycans or plastic water bottles. Fill to the top to reduce the amount of air, and seal.



6 For seed vendors, pack seeds in small bags (e.g., 1kg or more) and put them inside PICS bags to prevent insect attack.

Recommendations

- Use 25 kg or 50 kg PICS bags to store seed
- Seed packing should be done near or in the storage facility
- Label all containers with seed variety name and year of harvest
- Stack PICS bags on elevated platforms
- Do not store PICS bags in direct sunlight
- Inspect the stored seed at least monthly
- Test germination before planting or selling

Storing Safely to Stop Hunger

Seed Storage Facts

- Hermetic storage is a safe viable way to maintain seed quality
- Seeds require minimal oxygen during storage- e.g. less than 2% oxygen after 6 months of storage
- Even when seed is infested, oxygen levels rarely fall below 5%, which is sufficient to maintain seed viability

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