Nonchemical cowpea storage using PICS bags

Step 1
Buy PICS bags from approved merchants.

Step 2
Ensure that your cowpea is completely dry and clean (no debris).

Step 3
Take the three PICS bags apart and check the two inner bags for holes and tears. Do not use a bag that has holes or tears.

Step 4
Pour a small amount of cowpea into the inner bag, starting gently. Make sure there are no air pockets at the bottom.

Step 5
Put the three bags together (one inside the other). Fill the inner bag with more cowpea. Make sure no grain gets between the bags.

Tying steps

Step 1
Inner bag first

Step 2
Middle bag next

Step 3
Outer bag last

1 Fill the bag far enough so that a lip remains for tying. Pack the grain tightly to remove air.

2 Twist the lip of the first bag tightly shut. Fold it over and tie firmly with a heavy string at the base of the twist and over the folded twist.

3 Pull the middle bag up over the first one so that it completely surrounds it. Twist the lip shut, fold over and tie, as before. Follow the same steps for the outer bag.

Contact

Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage project (PICS)
IPIA, Purdue University
West Lafayette
IN 47907 USA
E-mail: pics@purdue.edu
Tel: (+1) 765 494 6876

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
Oyo Road, PMB 5320
Ibadan, Nigeria
Tel: (+234) 2 7513742
Fax: (+44) 208 713786