

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Vestergaard Frandsen

Reducing inequalities through increasing resilience of small scale farmers: the case of ZeroFly insecticide incorporation technology in Africa.

Due to expansive fertile lands, the African continent has the potential to not only feed itself but the world as a whole. However, political strife, wars and economic crises pose challenges to farmers hindering them from accessing innovative ways of farming which coupled with poor or no storage facilities and competitive markets puts them at a disadvantage.

Insect infestation is the number one challenge to storage for small scale farmers and national reserves alike, Reducing the quantity and quality of stored grain between 20-40% which in this setting is the margin between profit and loss. This has forced farmers to sell their products soon after harvest at non-favourable prices, rather than capitalizing on the benefit of storage.

To address this challenge, Vestergaard Frandsen, which is the number one producer of mosquito nets, adopted the same insecticide (Deltamethrin) incorporated technique which has proven effective in Malaria control, to develop the so called Zero fly storage bag. The slow release insecticide effects last's for over two years, giving the farmer the option of reusing the sack in numerous harvest cycles, maximizing on storage and ultimately generating better returns in favourable markets for the farmers.

In a case-Control study conducted in Zambia, in collaboration with the National Research Institute on the efficacy of the Zero Fly in twelve storage site, It was proven than the ZF storage bag protects the grain from insect infestation, saving on the cost for repeated chemical treatment fumigation hence giving to poor small scale farmers more and better chances to maximize their profit through cheap, safe and prolonged storage solutions equally than large equal commercial farmers as well as farmers in more developed countries.