

WEIGHT LOSSES OCCURRING IN WHEAT FLOUR AND RICE KERNEL DURING STORAGE

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Losses in grain and flour on storage is a universal phenomenon. In Sri Lanka, there are no available data on these losses.

Four varieties of wheat flour and three varieties of rice kernel were stored in a warehouse in the Colombo district, under experimental conditions for a period of six months and one year respectively. Stack weight and change in moisture content of samples were determined and the relation between the two were studied. The moisture content in the grain was related to the atmospheric relative humidity and temperature. Even when there was a gain in moisture content an overall loss in stack weight was observed (average loss of $3.38 \pm 0.53\%$ on dry basis at the end of the six months, in one instance). The results indicate a relation to variation in moisture content, respiration of the stored material and insect damage.