

II. Store Management

Topic 27b

The Proper Construction of an Agri- Input Store

FACT SHEET

II. Store Management

Topic 27b: The Proper Construction of an Agri- Input Store

The nature of an agri-input store (which sells chemical products such as pesticides and fertilizers) makes having a **properly constructed store** very important. The following points are important to consider when constructing an agri-input store:

1. Separate rooms.
2. Building materials.
3. Retention of spills.
4. Ventilation and heat control.
5. Light.
6. Emergency exits.
7. Security.

1. Separate rooms

Ideally, the agri-input store should contain several rooms:

- Chemical storeroom: there should be a separate room for keeping agri-inputs and an isolated weighing and measuring area with appropriate equipment.
- Equipment room: For storing knapsacks, waterproof items, gloves, respirators, etc.
- Changing room: Area for overalls and boots and a separate area for civilian clothes with direct access to a shower.
- Shower and basin: Supplied with soap.
- Wash-down area: Concrete slab with walls to prevent drift, bunds to prevent spills, drain to sump, running water, and hoses.
- Soak away/sump: To collect waste washings. This should be lined with clay (10 cm) and with lime (5 cm).

2. Building materials

Storing agri-inputs is associated with two major threats: fire hazard and chemical spills. It is therefore vital to use construction materials that do not burn easily or absorb spilled chemicals. The best options for an agri-input store are:

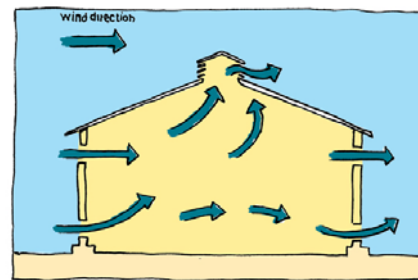
- Reinforced concrete walls.
- Floors that are impervious to liquid. The surface of the floor must be smooth for easy cleaning of spilled chemicals.
- Solid roof area that is watertight, strong, and durable.

3. Retention of spills

Floors must be built in such a way that spilled chemicals and water do not run out of the room or building. It is highly recommended that an agri-input store have an underground catch area where fluid can be captured in case of a major spillage; this is especially needed for the area where liquid pesticides are stored.

4. Ventilation and heat control

All areas of an agri-input store must be well ventilated to let (sometimes toxic) fumes and odors escape the building. Agri-input stores must be equipped with air ventilation openings in the walls. It is highly recommended that a roof air vent be installed to allow for fumes to escape from the building. The roof must be insulated with some ceiling boards to reduce the heat from outside on the roof. In the store rooms, windows should be placed very high to let in light but also to prevent direct sunlight from falling on the stored products; high windows will also keep the store cool.



5. Light

Agri-input stores must have adequate lighting. The shop should have normal windows to allow staff to see clearly when they work, even when there is a power cut. Customers must be able to read the label clearly. In areas where no electricity is available, natural sunlight must be adequate through windows and the entrances.

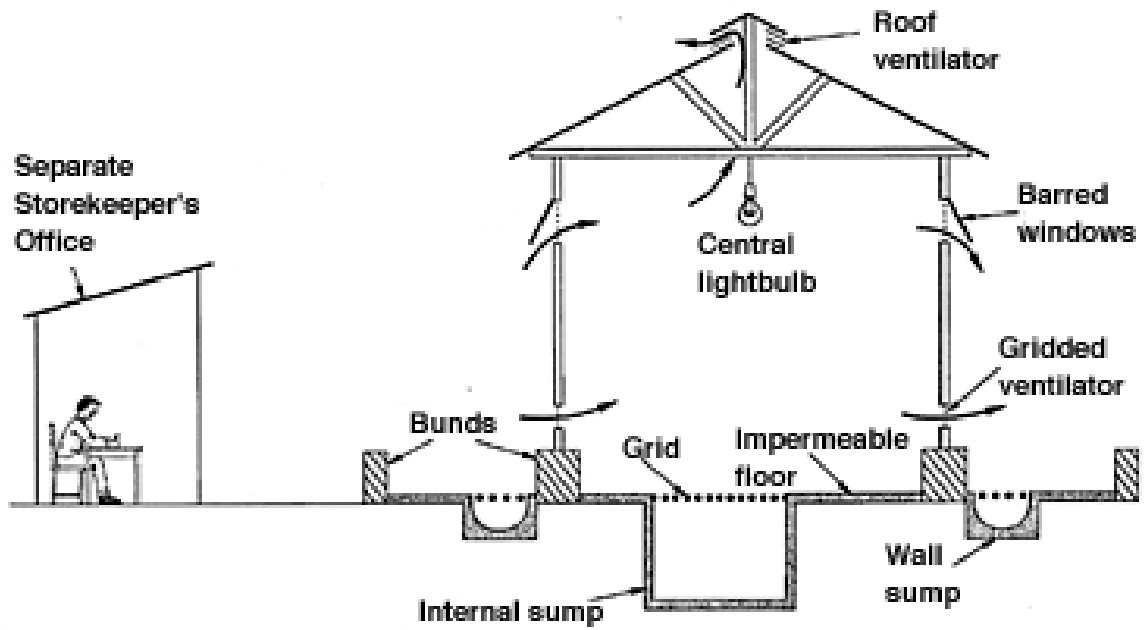
6. Emergency exits

All agri-input stores must have more than one exit that is easy to open. If kept locked, the keys must be stored very close to the door.

7. Security

Agri-inputs may cause great damage to people or the environment if they are in the wrong hands. It is important to keep proper security in mind when constructing a store. The following security measures are recommended:

- Entrance doors must be of solid wood or steel and must open outward.
- Additional security gates must be fitted in high-risk areas.
- Burglar bars must be on all windows.
- All doors must be lockable.
- The site should be fenced off with a proper gate.
- There must be adequate warning signs posted at each section. Examples include: danger; agri-input store; no unauthorized entry; wear protective clothing; no eating or drinking; fire hazard; no smoking.
- The store should be vermin proof. The wall vents should be covered with sound wire netting.



INSTRUCTIONS

II. Store Management

Topic 27b: The Proper Construction of an Agri- Input Store

Materials needed

- Flip-sheet board with flip-sheets
- Markers (2 black, 2 blue, 2 green, 2 red)
- Colored cards
- Kraft paper (or other large piece of paper)

Time needed: 45 minutes

- Preparations:**
- Flip-sheet with the heading: *The proper construction of an agri-input store*
 - Kraft paper with a drawing of an agri-input store (see example in fact sheet)
 - Set of colored cards labeled:
 - Separate rooms
 - Building material
 - Retention of spilled chemicals
 - Ventilation
 - Heat control
 - Light,
 - Emergency exits
 - Security

Set up

- Attention:** Ask the participants if they have ever constructed an agri-input store. Those that have never constructed one will now get the opportunity to build an agri-input store.
- Title:** Tell participants the title while showing the flip-sheet with the title: *The proper construction of an agri-input store.*
- Credibility:** Explain your experience in construction of agri-input stores.
- Objectives:** To explain the proper construction of an agri-input store.



- Benefits:** Knowing how to construct an agri-input store will help you improve your store.
- Direction:** During this session, we will focus on the proper construction of an agri-input store and not on the location or the organization of the products inside.

Delivery

Explanation, Demonstration, Exercise, and Guidance:

1. Tell the participants that as promised, they will now build their own agri-input store. Divide the participants into four groups. Give each group a sheet of Kraft paper and a set of markers.
2. Tell the participants that we must consider certain things when constructing a proper agri-input store. Each group will **draw an agri-input store** and indicate on the drawing what is important for the construction. The drawings must be realistic; they can only use building material that is available in the region. Allow enough time for the exercise. Walk around to guide the groups.
3. Discuss the **results**. Let every group paste its drawing on the wall. Look for similarities while discussing the following points: separate rooms, building material, retention of spilled chemicals, ventilation, heat control, light, emergency exits, and security. Every time you discuss one of the points, paste the colored card on the wall and mention how every group depicted it in the drawing. For example, this group only drew one room. Do you think that is a good idea? Why is one room not enough? Make sure to discuss all points mentioned in the fact sheet.
4. Show participants the drawing of the agri-input store that you prepared.

Finish

- Summary:** Use your drawing to give a summary. Mention separate rooms, building material, retention of spilled chemicals, ventilation, heat control, light, emergency exits, and security.
- Questions:** Ask if anyone has a question or comment.
- Evaluation:** Ask them why ventilation is important for an agri-input store. Ask them why we need to take security into consideration. Ask them for the minimum requirements for walls and floors.
- Next step:** In this session, we learned about the proper construction of an agri-input store. In the next session, we will learn how to organize an agri-input store.

Distribute the **fact sheet** to all participants.