

The Importance of Computerized Analysis on Spoilage of Maize (*Zea Mays* L), Before Harvest and Storage in Osun State, Nigeria

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Abstract: This research work was carried out, to find the importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize (*Zea mays* L), before harvest and storage in Osun State, Nigeria. 4 Local governments, namely: (Ife East, Ife South, Ife Central and Ife North), local government areas were sampled. 4,000 open questionnaires were distributed to the 4 Local Governments, out of which 1000 was used for farmers, in each local government. A total of 40 different locations were visited in all the four Local Governments, out of which 100 questionnaires were used for farmers in each location. It was gathered that above 70% of the farmers from the four local governments, supported the importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize (*Zea mays* L), before harvest and storage in Osun State, Nigeria, while below 30% of the people could not even understand whether there was any need, on the importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize (*Zea mays* L), before harvest and storage in Osun State, Nigeria or not. The results from the questionnaires when using Pearson two-tailed correlation coefficient revealed that there was a significant difference from the summary data collected from the farmers within the four local government areas visited and sampled, ($p > 0.05$) table 5. This shows a strong positive correlation, which implying that, the importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize before harvest and storage in Osun State, Nigeria. is strongly influenced and enhanced the farmers and people's support, and, had therefore, made this research work to become a reality, ($p > 0.05$), table 5. The reasons may be due to the fact that, maize (*Zea mays* L), is not only rich in dietary D and calories which are a good source of energy to our body, it is however served as the most productive grain crops in the middle and northern belts of Nigeria where sunshine is adaptable and rainfall is moderate. And as a basic raw materials to thousands of industrial products that may includes: alcoholic, beverages, pharmaceutical, food sweeteners, food cereals, cosmetic and films, gums, package, textile, paper industries and so on., it is one of African's dominant food crop, that can be consumed in varied forms, such as: maize flour for confectionaries, semo (for swallow with soup), as corn beef, mill (for animals feeding), as roaster corn, it can be boiled or prepared as porridge. Pie chart was used to depict the summary data of each of the local government areas sampled in Ile – Ife Kingdom, of Osun State Nigeria.

Keywords: Maize (*Zea Mays* L), Corn, Harvest, Storage, 4 Local Governments, Osun State, Pearson Correlation

1. Introduction

Maize (*Zea mays* L), is the most productive grain crops in the middle and northern belts of Nigeria where sunshine is adaptable and rainfall is moderate. It is one of the oldest human cultivated crops, [1]. It had a tremendous variability in kernel colour, textile, composition and appearance. It is commonly known as corn in the United States and Canada, is the most important cereal grain Worldwide after wheat and rice. It is also referred to as the cereal of the future, for its

nutritional value and utilization of its products, [2].



Figure 1. Maize (*Zea mays* L), as the Cereal of the Future.

It serves as a basic raw materials to thousands of industrial products that may includes: alcoholic, beverages, pharmaceutical, food sweeteners, food cereals, cosmetic and films, gums, package, textile, paper industries and so on. As one of African's dominant food crops, maize can be consumed in varied forms, such as: maize flour for confectionaries, semo (for swallow with soup), as corn beef, mill (for animals feeding), as roaster corn, it can be boiled or prepared as porridge. It is the most versatile emerging cash crops, having wider adaptability under varied climatic conditions and called the queen of cereals globally. In all parts of Africa, green (fresh) maize is boiled or roasted in its cob and served as snacks. Maize is often consumed as vegetable. In Nigeria, more than 60% of maize production is also consumed by industrial sector for the production of beer, malt drinks, maize flakes, starch, syrup, dextrose, and animal feed, because there is so much value in the industrial processing of maize, especially into animal feed. The crop is richer in vitamins A, and E, carbohydrates, essential minerals, and contain 9% protein. They are also rich in dietary D and calories which are a good source of energy, [3]. Maize or grain grows well in rich loamy or sandy loamy soil. Such soil has to be well drained area and suitable on a fairly flat landscape. It grows relatively well in a wider range of soil type than rice. Almost every part of Nigeria can grow maize in their soil. Since sunlight is very necessary and prosper to maize, Nigeria is a country blessed with abundant sunlight, therefore, maize can grow successfully in almost every state of the country.

1.1. Origin of Maize (*Zea Mays L*)

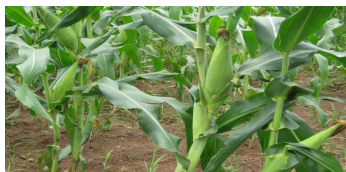


Figure 2. Maize (*Zea mays L*), Origin in Nigeria.

The centre of its origin was believed to be traced to Mesoamerica region, as far back as 7000 years past, when it was grown as a wild grass called teosinte in the Mexican highlands, [4]. Botanically, maize (*Zea mays L*) belongs to the grass family grammeaneae (Poaceae). It is an annual plant with an extensive fibrous root system. And it is a diploid species with a chromosome number of $2n = 2x = 20$, [5].

1.2. Months and Periods of Maturity of Maize (*Zea Mays L*) in Nigeria



Figure 3. Maize (*Zea Mays L*), Months and Periods of Maturity.

Maize matures very fast. Between 3 – 4 months after planting, this crop will be ready for harvest. In the Southern Nigeria, early maize is sown by March/April, for early maturing seed variety and by July/August for late maturing seed variety; while in the Northern Nigeria, early maize is sown by May/June. Harvesting of early maize is done by May and Late Maize is harvested by October. After three or four months of tending the maize plant, the farmers is ready to harvest.

1.3. Maize (*Zea Mays L*), Spoilage Before Harvest and Storage in Nigeria

In order to maintain high quality of maize for both short term and long term harvest and storage, maize should be protected from weather (including relative humidity and temperature), growth of microorganisms and insects, [6]. Fungal growth in maize is facilitated by hot and humid conditions, [7]. Drought, humidity, temperature, insects, infestation, and rough handling have been suggested as factors which contributed to the presence of fungi and subsequently toxins in agricultural products, [8].



Figure 4. Maize (*Zea mays L*), Although, Commercially Lucrative, Some Risks are Connected in Growing It and Should be well Understood, because, Maize is Extremely Sensitive to Droughts, Insects and Pests.

Although, maize is commercially lucrative, there are some risks connected in growing it. This is because, maize is extremely sensitive to droughts, insects and pests. In Nigeria and other African countries, these may lead to crop's failure and can resulted to famine, in some cases. Insect pests can seriously reduce plant implantation, plant population, plant growth and subsequent yield potential, and must be monitored prior to planting. Seed treatments helps deter food. Watering in dry weather prevents the hulls from loosening. Diseases and insects in maize farming like (Downy, mildew and leaf spot), if the affected plants is not removed, and sprayed with (mancozeb, 1 kg per hectare of land), 20 days after sowing, usually causes the maize to dry and die. Black earwigs is a sporadic and potentially important pest of maize. Black earwigs eat newly sealed seed and the roots of crops resulting in a poor establishment. Birds are always problems to maize. They eat newly sealed seeds and destroy the entire root. Design a rough cloth on dry trees, like a stature of human being in all conspicuous areas inside the farm. (as wind blows, since they are birds, they ran away and never turn back). True wireworm larvae: causes damaged to the root or body of the seedlings. Then, crop growth will be delayed, by dying. False wireworm larvae: attacked the seed during the process of formation, including the shoots of young plants in the spring, resulting in uneven stands. Spray

with (mancozeb, 1 kg per hectare of land), 20 days after sowing.

1.4. Humid Condition Needed for Maize (*Zea Mays* L), Storage if Harvested



Figure 5. Maize (*Zea mays* L), If Harvested, Need be Stored Under Hot and Humid Conditions, Most Farmers Lack Proper Knowledge, and Equipment Methods of Drying Grains. Exposure to Moist and Humid Conditions During Storage Will Cause the Kernel to Absorb Water from the Surroundings, [9].

Maize, like other stored products is hygroscopic in nature and tends to absorb or release moisture. Even if properly dried, after harvest, exposure to moist and humid conditions during storage will cause the kernel to absorb water from the surroundings, leading to increase in maize moisture content, which resulted in enhanced deterioration, [10]. In tropical and sub tropical countries, a large proportion of the grain, (such as maize) is harvested and stored under hot and humid conditions, and most farmers lack proper knowledge, equipment methods of drying grains, [11]. Subsequently, the maize is stored while still relatively moist and warmth and high moisture contents can result in rapid deterioration of the

grain and promote the growth of microorganisms (e.g. fungi and bacteria), and insects in the grains, [12]. The current estimates of the cost of grain loss due to insect and microorganisms, damage of grain stored in developing countries each year ranged from \$500 million to \$1 billion, [13]. Also reported that insects in grain enhanced mould development. because they increase moisture content and temperature, and open areas of the grain for attack. Fungal growth in maize is facilitated by hot and humid conditions, [14].

2. Study Area

The study has been conducted in Osun [pronounced; ‘O’ shoon]. Osun State is an inland State in South-Western Nigeria. Its capital is Osogbo. It has a population of 3.4 million and of 9,251 km² in Area. It is bounded in the North by Ekiti State and partly by Ondo State, in the South by Ogun State and in the West by Oyo State. Osun is home to several of Nigeria’s most famous landmarks, including the campus of Obafemi Awolowo University; Nigeria’s pre-eminent institution of higher learning. The university also located in the ancient town of Ile – Ife, an important early centre of political and religious development for Yoruba culture. Other important cities and towns include the ancient Kingdom-capitals of Oke-Ila Orangun, Ila-Orangun, Ijebu-Jesa, Ede, Iwo, Ejigbo, Modakeke, Ibokun, Ode-Omu, Ifetedo, Esa-Oke, Ilesa and Igbajo.

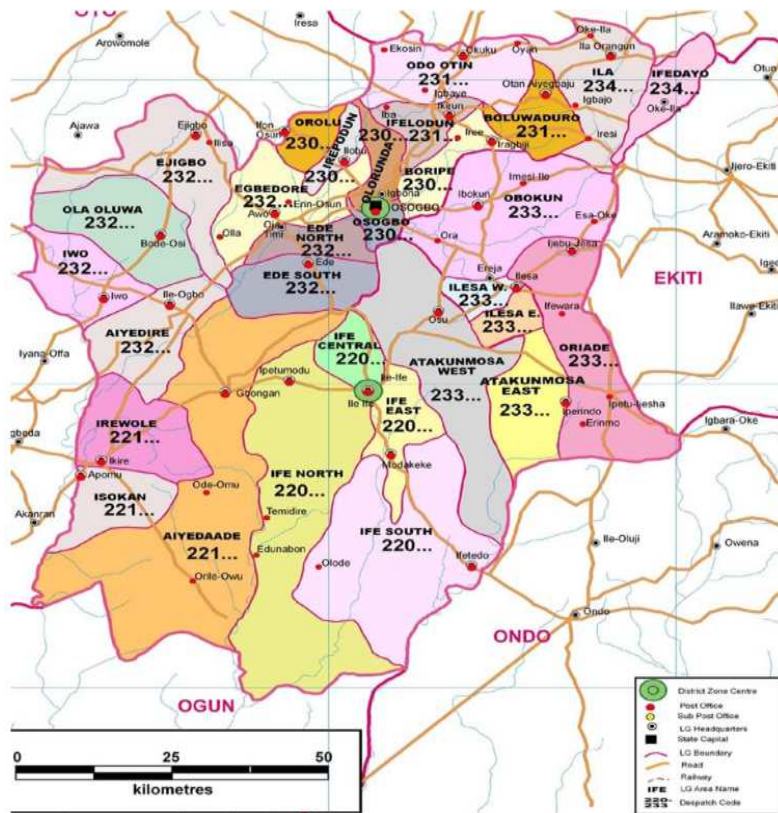


Figure 6. The Study Area Map of Osun State.

3. Material and Methods

The responses of the farmers in different locations of the four local government areas can be seen from the decision table as below:

Table 1. The Decision Table.

Sub	Above 70%	Below 30%	Open headed Questionnaires
Computerized Analysis on spoilage of maize before harvest and storage is important	X		
I do not know		X	
State open questionnaires			X

The below are the points ticked by the majority of the people (above 70% table 1) from the questionnaires who understood and supported that, computerized analysis on spoilage of maize before harvest and storage in Osun State, Nigeria, was important:



Figure 7. Maize (Zea mays L), Importance.

[a]. Maize may prevent diabetes and hypertension. [b]. Maize has anti-cancer properties. [c]. It is the most productive grain crops in the middle and northern belts of Nigeria where sunshine is adaptable and rainfall is moderate. [d]. The crop is richer in vitamins A, and E, carbohydrates, essential minerals, and contain 9% protein. [e]. In all parts of Africa, green (fresh) maize is boiled or roasted in its cob and served as snacks. [f]. Maize helps in preventing skin problems. [g]. Maize is often consumed as vegetable. [h]. It serves as a basic raw materials to thousands of industrial products that may includes: alcoholic, beverages, pharmaceutical, food sweeteners, food cereals, cosmetic and films, gums, package, textile, paper industries and so on. [i]. Maize helps in improving vision. [j]. As one of African's dominant food crops, maize can be consumed in varied forms, such as: maize flour for confectionaries, semo (for swallow with soup), as corn beef, mill (for animals feeding),

as roaster corn, it can be boiled or prepared as porridge. [k]. Maize is good for health digestion due to fibber content. [l]. Maize helps in lowering LDB (bad) cholesterol. [m]. In Nigeria, more than 60% of maize production is also consumed by industrial sector for the production of beer, malt drinks, maize flakes, starch, syrup, dextrose, and animal feed, because there is so much value in the industrial processing of maize, especially into animal feed. [n]. Maize is beneficial for the heart.. [o]. In tropical and sub tropical countries, a large proportion of the grain, (such as maize) is harvested and stored under hot and humid conditions, and most farmers lack proper knowledge, equipment methods of drying grains. [p]. Insect pests can seriously reduce plant implantation, plant population, plant growth and subsequent yield potential, and must be monitored prior to planting. [q]. Birds are always problems to maize. They eat newly sealed seeds and destroy the entire root. To control them, design a rough cloth on dry trees, like a stature of human being in all conspicuous areas inside the farm. (as wind blows, since they are birds, they ran away and never turn back). [r]. Black earwigs is a sporadic and potentially important pest of maize. Black earwigs eat newly sealed seed and the roots of crops resulting in a poor establishment. [s]. Maize is rich in dietary D and calories which are a good source of energy.

4. Results and Discussion

Questionnaires were distributed to 4 Local government areas that is, (Ife East, Ife South, Ife Central and Ife North). The results from the questionnaires however revealed that the importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize (Zea mays L), before harvest and storage in Osun State, Nigeria are manifold:

There was a significant difference on the people in all the local government areas visited, ($p > 0.05$).

Table 2. People's respondent.

Wards	Ife East	Ife South	Ife Central	Ife North
People's Response	The importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize (Zea Mays L), before harvest and storage in Osun State.	The importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize (Zea Mays L), before harvest and storage in Osun State.	The importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize (Zea Mays L), before harvest and storage in Osun State.	The importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize (Zea Mays L), before harvest and storage in Osun State.
	I do not Know	I do not Know	I do not Know	I do not Know
	701 70.1%	697 69.7%	665 66.5%	668 66.8%
	299 29.9%	303 30.3%	335 33.5%	332 33.2%

From the above table 2, in Ife East, there are 701 people's response with 70.1%, Ife South, 697 with 69.7%, Ife Central, 655 with 65.5%, and Ife North, 668 with 66.8%, were those people who supported the importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize (Zea mays L), before harvest and storage in Osun State, while in Ife East, 299 with 29.9%,

Ife South, 303 with 30.3%, Ife Central, 335 with 33.5%, and Ife North, 332 with 33.2% respectively, could not even know whether there was any need for the importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize (Zea mays L), before harvest and storage in Osun State, or not.

Table 3. The summary data collected, from the 4 Local Governments sampled, out of which 900 were used in each local government.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	LOCATION	IFE EAST	IFE SOUTH	IFE CENTRAL	IFE NORTH				
Peoples Respondent	A	72	28	68	32	52	48	58	42
	B	70	30	62	38	59	41	69	31
	C	62	38	74	26	58	42	65	35
	D	64	36	65	35	68	32	66	34
	E	76	24	66	34	74	26	62	38
	F	75	25	68	32	76	24	74	26
	G	63	37	78	22	78	22	76	24
	H	67	33	72	28	62	38	63	37
	I	74	26	74	26	65	35	64	36
	J	78	22	70	30	73	27	71	29
TOTAL =	10	701	299	697	303	665	335	668	332
Grand Total =	10	1000		1000		1000		1000	

Table 4. Descriptive statistics.

Descriptive Statistics			
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
IFEEAST	70.1000	5.80134	10
IFESOUTH	69.7000	4.85455	10
IFECENTRAL	66.5000	8.72098	10
IFENORTH	66.8000	5.63323	10

CORRELATIONS

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/VARIABLES=IFEEAST IFESOUTH IFECENTRAL IFENORTH
/PRINT=TWOTAIL NOSIG
/STATISTICS DESCRIPTIVES
/MISSING=PAIRWISE.
    
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Table 5. Pearson Correlation.

Correlations		IFEEAST	IFESOUTH	IFECENTRAL	IFENORTH
IFEEAST	Pearson Correlation	1	-.338	.223	-.074
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.339	.536	.839
	N	10	10	10	10
IFESOUTH	Pearson Correlation	-.338	1	.198	.229
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.339		.583	.524
	N	10	10	10	10
IFECENTRAL	Pearson Correlation	.223	.198	1	.706*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.536	.583		.023
	N	10	10	10	10
IFENORTH	Pearson Correlation	-.074	.229	.706*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.839	.524	.023	
	N	10	10	10	10

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

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FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=IFEEAST IFESOUTH IFECENTRAL IFENORTH
/NTILES=4
/NTILES=10
/STATISTICS=STDDEV VARIANCE RANGE MINIMUM MAXIMUM SEMEAN MEAN MEDIAN MODE SUM
SKEWNESS SESKEW
KURTOSIS SEKURT
/GROUPED=IFEEAST IFESOUTH IFECENTRAL IFENORTH
/PIECHART PERCENT
    
```

/ORDER=ANALYSIS.
Frequencies

Table 6. The mode, median, mean, std. Deviation etc., of the 4 local governments.

Statistics		IFEEAST	IFESOUTH	IFECENTRAL	IFENORTH
N	Valid	10	10	10	10
	Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean		70.1000	69.7000	66.5000	66.8000
Std. Error of Mean		1.83455	1.53514	2.75782	1.78139
Median		71.0000 ^a	69.3333 ^a	66.5000 ^a	65.5000 ^a
Mode		62.00 ^b	68.00 ^b	52.00 ^b	58.00 ^b
Std. Deviation		5.80134	4.85455	8.72098	5.63323
Variance		33.656	23.567	76.056	31.733
Skewness		-.188	.148	-.231	.281
Std. Error of Skewness		.687	.687	.687	.687
Kurtosis		-1.593	-.541	-1.185	-.656
Std. Error of Kurtosis		1.334	1.334	1.334	1.334
Range		16.00	16.00	26.00	18.00
Minimum		62.00	62.00	52.00	58.00
Maximum		78.00	78.00	78.00	76.00
Sum		701.00	697.00	665.00	668.00
Percentiles	10	62.5000 ^c	63.5000 ^c	55.0000 ^c	60.0000 ^c
	20	63.5000	65.5000	58.5000	62.5000
	25	64.0000	66.0000	59.0000	63.0000
	30	65.5000	66.6667	60.5000	63.5000
	40	68.5000	68.0000	63.5000	64.5000
	50	71.0000	69.3333	66.5000	65.5000
	60	73.0000	71.0000	70.5000	67.5000
	70	74.5000	72.6667	73.5000	70.0000
	75	75.0000	73.3333	74.0000	71.0000
	80	75.5000	74.0000	75.0000	72.5000
90	77.0000	76.6667	77.0000	75.0000	

- a. Calculated from grouped data.
- b. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown
- c. Percentiles are calculated from grouped data.

Frequency Table

Tables (7, 8, 9, 10), the frequency Tables of all the 4 (four) Local Government Areas sampled.

Table 7. Valid and cumulative% of Ife East.

IFEEAST				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	62.00	1	10.0	10.0
	63.00	1	10.0	20.0
	64.00	1	10.0	30.0
	67.00	1	10.0	40.0
	70.00	1	10.0	50.0
	72.00	1	10.0	60.0
	74.00	1	10.0	70.0
	75.00	1	10.0	80.0
	76.00	1	10.0	90.0
	78.00	1	10.0	100.0
Total	10		100.0	

Table 8. Valid and cumulative% of Ife South.

Ife south				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	62.00	1	10.0	10.0
	63.00	1	10.0	20.0
	64.00	1	10.0	30.0

Ife south				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	67.00	1	10.0	10.0
	70.00	1	10.0	20.0
	72.00	1	10.0	30.0
	74.00	1	10.0	40.0
	75.00	1	10.0	50.0
	76.00	1	10.0	60.0
	78.00	1	10.0	70.0
Total	10		100.0	

Table 9. Valid and cumulative% of Ife Central.

IFECENTRAL				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	52.00	1	10.0	10.0
	58.00	1	10.0	20.0
	59.00	1	10.0	30.0
	62.00	1	10.0	40.0
	65.00	1	10.0	50.0
	68.00	1	10.0	60.0
	73.00	1	10.0	70.0
	74.00	1	10.0	80.0
	76.00	1	10.0	90.0
	78.00	1	10.0	100.0
Total	10		100.0	

Table 10. Valid and cumulative% of Ife North.

IFENORTH				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	58.00	1	10.0	10.0
	62.00	1	10.0	20.0
	63.00	1	10.0	30.0
	64.00	1	10.0	40.0
	65.00	1	10.0	50.0
Valid	66.00	1	10.0	60.0
	69.00	1	10.0	70.0
	71.00	1	10.0	80.0
	74.00	1	10.0	90.0
	76.00	1	10.0	100.0
Total	10		100.0	

Figures (8, 9, 10 and 11) showing the Pie Chart, of all the (4) four Local Government sampled.

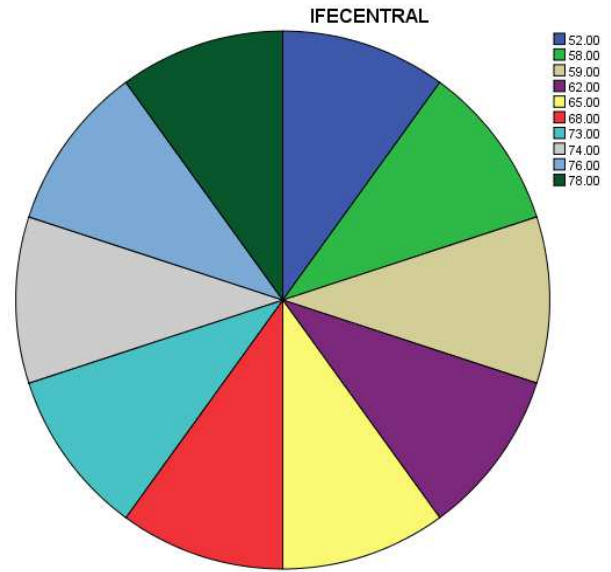


Figure 10. Pie chart of Ife Central.

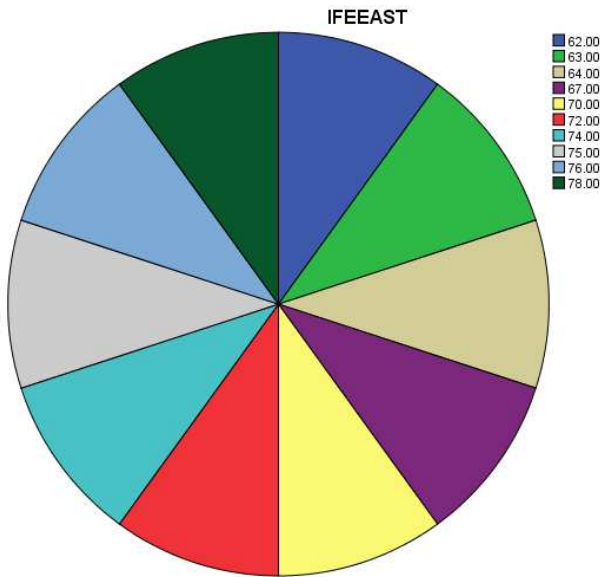


Figure 8. Pie chart of Ife East.

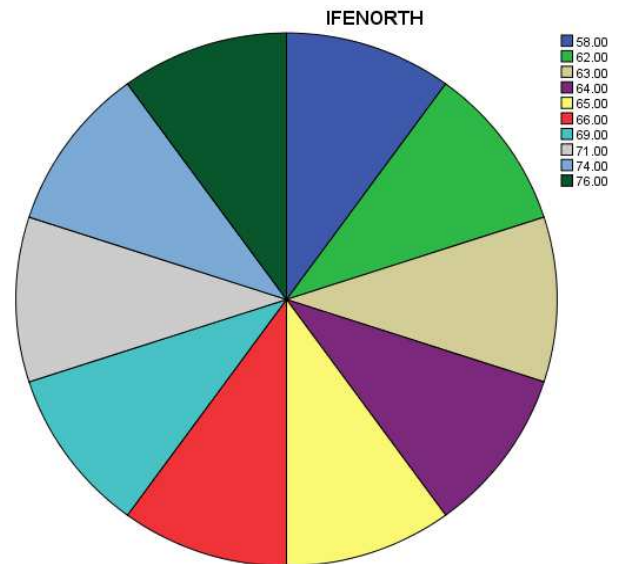


Figure 11. Pie chart of Ife North.

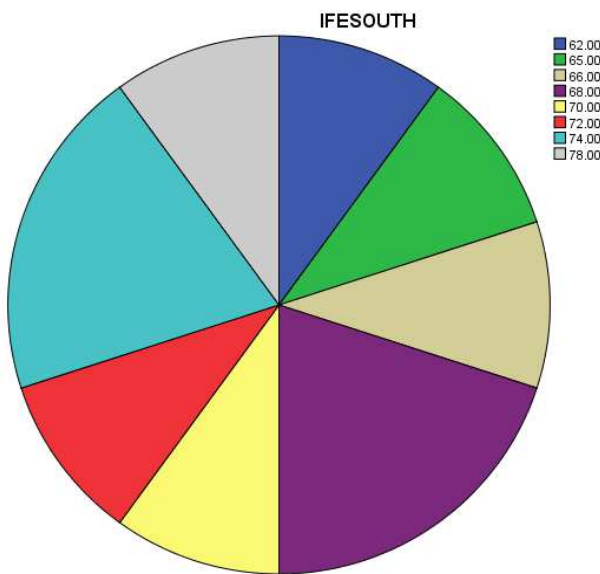


Figure 9. Pie chart of Ife South.

5. Recommendations

1. Workshop at different intervals should be organised in Ile-Ife Kingdom, and Osun State, in general, to farmers, so as to educate them in the uses of current farmer's equipments, to increase their maize output production and eradicate maize spoilage.
2. Some of the rural areas roads in Osun State, Nigeria, are bad. Government should provide good roads to farmers, to enable ease carriage of their maize harvest crops, to save the cost of transportation of carriage of food crops to urban areas.
3. Government should provide electricity to rural areas for farmers, to enable them to stay longer in their farms, for maximum increase in their maize harvest Production.
4. Nigerian Government should encourage Agriculture, and Maize plantation, both at the secondary level to higher Institution's level, since food is health, and health is wealth.
5. Government should erect large storage at intervals for farmers

in order to encourage them to keep their agricultural products, so as to minimize frequent maize spoilage. 6. Adult computer awareness training should be made possible and effective to all farmers, in all the local governments, in both the rural and urban areas of Nigeria, to make them become computer literate, and as in the era of computing, maize spoilage will definitely be reduced. 7. Government should encourage farmers by providing and bringing agricultural equipments like cutlasses, sprayers, hoes, etc., and farm products like herbicides, fertilizers, insecticides, etc., closer to them, so as to reduce the cost of maize harvest to the buyers.

6. Conclusion

The following conclusions are made based on the findings of this study. Since maize as a crop, is not only richer in vitamins A, and E, carbohydrates, essential minerals, and contain 9% protein, it is also rich in dietary D and calories which are a good source of energy for human being. And as one of African's dominant food crops, that can be consumed in varied forms, such as: maize flour for confectionaries, semo (for swallow with soup), as corn beef, mill (for animals feeding), as roaster corn, to be boiled or prepared as porridge; in Nigeria, more than 60% of maize production is also consumed by industrial sector for the production of beer, malt drinks, maize flakes, starch, syrup, dextrose, and animal feed, because there is so much value in the industrial processing of maize, especially into animal feed; the results of this study provide the empirical evidence that the importance of computerized analysis on spoilage of maize before harvest and storage, in Osun State, Nigeria, has enhanced the farmers and people's achievement in Osun State in general and Nigeria at large. The farmers and the people of Osun State, therefore should use the computerized analysis on spoilage of maize before harvest and storage, in Osun State, Nigeria, to argument their agricultural knowledge, business techniques, and decision aids, in order to attain minimum goal needed for everybody in the society.

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