

DryCard

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Abstract: The DryCard is a low-cost and simple tool for resource poor farmers and traders to determine whether their dried products are dry enough for safe storage. Drying is a method that farmers can use to preserve and store their harvest, but knowing if their products are dry enough can be difficult. When products are not dried sufficiently they are susceptible to mold contamination resulting in postharvest losses and harmful toxins such as aflatoxin. The DryCard indicates dryness by utilizing a strip of cobalt chloride paper that changes color as humidity changes. The card includes a corresponding color scale that indicates the level of relative humidity and simple instructions that can be translated into different languages or pictures. The DryCard can be manufactured using locally sourced materials costing 10 cents per card and have been sold for around US\$1 each. The Horticulture Innovation Lab is partnering with in-country businesses and entrepreneurs to increase the awareness and adoption of the DryCard technology by setting up local production and marketing of the DryCard. Partners are provided all the resources needed to produce a started set of DryCards, and in return report back on sales, customer feedback, and success stories.