

Insect Pest Management in Stored Pulses: an Overview

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Abstract Pulses, which constitute an important part in the daily diet of mostly the vegetarian population, suffer a great damage by insects during storage. In this review, different control measures such as chemical treatment, physical treatment, and biological control of insects in stored pulses are discussed in brief. Chemicals like methyl bromide, malathion, and dichlorvos are being phased out. In these circumstances, new age chemicals like carbonyl sulfide and sulfur dioxide are gaining acceptance. Carbon dioxide and biogas generated from cow dung can be used as fumigation measures. Natural products like vegetable oil, inert dusts, plant extracts like essential oils, lectins, proteins, and leaf powders, which have insecticidal and antimicrobial activity, have been used as fumigants for traditional storage worldwide. Simple technologies like sun drying and repeated sieving can be adopted by small-scale farmers and traders. Maintaining low oxygen, high carbon dioxide, or pure nitrogen atmosphere in the storage environment is also proving to be beneficial preventive methods. Hot air and irradiation are being used, while dielectric heating is still in the stage of development in many of the developed countries for insect control. Developing countries are beginning to consider the use of these methods to control stored product insects.

Keywords Storage · Pulses · Bruchids · Dielectric heating · Plant derivatives · Irradiation · Sunning · Inert dusts

Introduction

Pulses are those food legumes, which are harvested as dry grain, excluding vegetable crops like green beans and green peas and grains like soybean and peanuts that are cultivated for oil extraction. Pulses are a good source of vegetable protein catering to the needs of mostly the vegetarian population. Even with increased production over the years, India, a top pulse-producing country, still relies on other countries for meeting her domestic demand (Mangaraj et al. 2013), because of her burgeoning population and cultivable area shrinking due to rapid urbanization. One of the means of increasing food supply is by improving the postharvest and storage practices to reduce food loss to insects.

Pulse yield is devastated by the attack of insects and other pests. This pest problem is not localized to India but everywhere in the world, where stored products are damaged by a number of storage pests. The major groups of storage pests are insects, fungi, bacteria, and rodents, which contribute to storage losses apart from the losses that occur during handling and transportation, due to lack of proper storage facilities and pillaging of grains. Among all the pests, insect damage in stored grains alone may amount to 10–50 % (FAO 2012). Insects are competing with human races for food. The insects do not only damage the field crops but also accompany the grains even to the store houses and warehouses to cause severe damage. These insects eat a considerable part of the stored product and also contaminate the sound grains with their dead bodies, wings, and excreta. In many instances, small improvements in storage methods had led to much better protection of stored product culminating in lesser losses. It is desirable to have a good storage building with proper grain handling

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system and good safety measures, which can reduce the losses to a large extent. Even with good storage practices that follow good hygiene practice during handling and storage, adequate drying of stored grains to a safe moisture level, and all other safety measures, may always not be effective in preventing storage losses (Ghosh et al. 2007). Storage pests may still manage to reach the product and cause irreparable damage. The insects could slip into the product from the field (Kawuki et al. 2005), during transit, storage, or from the processing and handling equipment. Storage of food grains, which have already been infested with pests, has been the cause of concern for farmers. Though most of the field pests do not thrive in the stored grains, some still manage to survive and cause collateral damage with the storage pests. These insects may cause damage as high as 50 % or more in a temperate region like Canada, as reported from a case study on lentils (Ghosh et al. 2007), but the losses could escalate to 100 % as reported for chick peas, in tropical countries like India (Dubey et al. 2008). As a result, small and marginal farmers who grow pulses are unable to store their produce and eventually are forced to sell their hard-earned commodities at a throwaway price. This compromises food safety and forces the farmers to continue living in drudgery and poverty. In this review, different pest control measures practiced worldwide, commercially and at the domestic level, and ongoing research findings are discussed.

Major Storage Insects in Pulses

Coleopteran insects of the family Bruchidae, one of the major seed weevils/bruchids, have been associated with the seeds of leguminous plants through co-evolutionary processes (Sales et al. 2000). These processes have permitted the bruchids to thrive on seeds full of toxic compounds, in contrast to the majority of the other potential aggressors, which are incapable of dealing with the toxic compounds (Sales et al. 2000). The bruchids, also commonly referred to as pulse weevils/beetles, lay their eggs on the maturing pods in the field, or in stored dry whole pulses. Some of the major pulse bruchids are *Callosobruchus maculatus*, *Callosobruchus chinensis*, *Callosobruchus analis*, *Callosobruchus rhodesianus*, *Callosobruchus dolichosi*, *Callosobruchus subinnotatus*, *Callosobruchus phaseoli*, *Acanthoscelides obtectus*, and *Zabrotes subfasciatus*. Apart from bruchids, other insects attacking the stored beans are *Oryzaephilus surinamensis* (L.), *Tribolium castaneum* (Hbst.), *Rhyzopertha dominica* (F.), *Prostephanus truncatus* (Horn), *Sitophilus* spp., and nitidulids (Giles 1977). In this article, however, disinfestation methods are described vis-a-vis bruchid disinfestations. Bruchid infestation of pulses commences in the field itself, even before the crop is harvested (Kawuki et al. 2005), and this infestation is carried into warehouses, resulting in further

infestation and deterioration of the stored pulses. These insects multiply at a rapid rate in suitable environmental conditions such as high humidity and optimum temperature conditions (Appleby and Credland 2004). The larvae that emerge out of the eggs bore into the pulses and start feeding on them. The association between bruchids and pulses is highly specific, with only seeds of a very few species being attacked by any one insect species (Tuda et al. 2005). A study conducted by Haines (1989) revealed that *C. analis* attacked the green gram and white soybean, whereas the beetle *Bruchidius atrolineatus* infested and damaged seeds of *Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp. in tropical Africa, but it did not infest the seeds of *Voandzeia subterranea* (L.) Thou., *Glycine max*, *Voandzeia subterranea* (L.) Thou., and *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. *Cicer arietinum* and *Vigna radiata*, however, may serve as primary or alternative hosts to the beetle (Ofuya and Credland 1996). Similarly, chick pea cultivars are primarily invaded by *C. analis* and *C. chinensis* (Jha et al. 2009).

Disinfestation Methods for Stored Pulses

Insect development in stored pulses causes depreciation in the crop quality. A wide range of methods are adopted worldwide for disinfesting stored pulses; they are specific to geographical distribution, grains or food commodities, etc. The severity of insect damage depends on the storage methods or disinfestation technology and commodity type. Since ancient times, insecticides and repellents have been used to protect grains from insect attack. Some archeological studies revealed that natural insecticides and insect repellents were used in storage structures. People at that time were using a wide range of methods such as airtight storage, use of plant and animal parts, oils, minerals, and ash for controlling insect pests in order to reduce storage losses (Panagiotakopulu et al. 1995).

The disinfestations of stored grains are mostly carried out with the help of chemical fumigants and contact insecticides. These chemicals pose health hazards to the workers, leave residue in the grain as well as pollute the environment. Despite these drawbacks, chemical fumigation is still one of the most effective methods for disinfesting the stored food, feedstuffs, and other agricultural commodities. Of late, there is growing public awareness regarding the adverse residual effect of these chemicals on mammalian health and ecology; this has resulted in prohibition of the use of toxic chemicals in food grain storage and led to banning of certain chemicals. This has limited the introduction of new compounds (Shaaya et al. 1997). Some of the treatments may be inappropriate for food due to the residues.

There is also a growing interest for the use of nonchemical or natural compounds, mostly plant derivatives to use as insect control measures, such as plant essential oils, vegetable oils, plant leaves, and bark powders. Among the nonchemical methods of disinfesting stored grains, simple physical measures

such as sunning or applying sand layer on the grains for restricting the insect attack, adopting suitable postharvest management practices, and controlling the moisture content of the grain by adopting suitable drying methods could be effectively adopted at the small-scale level or cottage level. On the other hand, advanced technologies such as irradiation and dielectric heating could be adopted commercially as alternate methods to chemical disinfestations (Rahman 1990; Wang et al. 2010; Baoua et al. 2012a; Hallman 2013). Some of the treatments are recommended to be used before storage such as sieving, heating, ionizing, impact, and the use of natural products. Most of the physical treatments are effective before storage to prevent the increase in the number of insects. Some of these treatments used for controlling insects and pests are discussed in brief in the succeeding sections.

Chemical Treatments

Chemical treatments mainly comprise of fumigants and contact insecticides. Fumigants are applied to eliminate infestations already present, while protectants are mostly admixed with grain to prevent insect infestation from occurring during the storage period (Lindgren et al. 1968). It is not recommended to use synthetic insecticides with food grains that are for consumption. Only chemicals registered for direct application to pulses should be used and these should be applied according to recommended doses.

Fumigant

During the early 1990s, insect control was largely done by fumigants, which emit toxic gas that kills all insects in all stages in an enclosure. The enclosure should be airtight so that the gas can penetrate and remain in the commodity for a suitable time period in order to eliminate all stages of insects. Once the exposure time is over, the pulses must be aerated and the bin checked for residual fumigant before entry of workers inside the bin. Fumigants are widely used as a cheap source of insecticides and pesticides. The efficiency of the fumigation depends on the relative humidity and temperature of the storage environment and seed moisture content (Mulhearn et al. 1976; Gupta and Kashyap 1995; Zettler and Arthur 2000) and airtightness of the storage system. Mulhearn et al. (1976) postulated that wind-generated pressure may be encountered by the tall cylindrical storage structure, which would create turbulent flow and vertical air velocity around the structure, affecting the fumigation and controlled atmospheric storage of grains. Gupta and Kashyap (1995) observed that bruchid infestation was more severe at 12 % (wet basis, wb) grain moisture content, and the deterioration was lower at storage grain moisture content of 9 % (wb) or less. Some of the common fumigants used earlier such as methyl bromide, ethyl formate, ethylene dibromide, hydrocyanic acid,

carbon tetrachloride, ethylene dichloride, and carbon disulfide (Lindgren et al. 1968) are being phased out in recent years. Major fumigants used worldwide for storage pests are discussed in the following sections.

Phosphine Phosphine fumigation is one of the widely used insect control measures. A recommended dose of tablets or pellets is usually applied into the grains, enclosed properly. On contact with humid air, these tablets generate toxic phosphine gas, which causes lethality in insects and eliminates all stages of insects, i.e., eggs, larvae, pupae to adults. Singh and Srivastava (1980) fumigated pea, cowpea, and green gram with different fumigants against *C. maculatus* and *C. chinensis* and observed that phosphine is more effective than ethylene dibromide, carbon disulfide, ethylene dichloride + carbon tetrachloride, and carbon tetrachloride. By aerating these pulses for 1.5–3 days, the residues of these fumigants were reduced and were completely removed after washing and cooking of the pulses. Their study recommended the use of 1–2 tablets/ton of food legume for complete elimination of pulse bruchids. Some researchers claim that phosphine does not impair the pulse grains nor leave residues that could be hazardous to the consumer when correctly applied and the pulses are aerated (Ahmad 1976; Rangaswamy and Gunasekaran 1996). It was observed that after the application of six phosphine tablets/ton to grains for the stipulated time and then airing, some food legumes desorbed the residual phosphine more rapidly than others, and within 1 day of aeration, the residues were significantly reduced. Based on this observation, Rangaswamy and Gunasekaran (1996) recommended the use of phosphine as a suitable fumigant for pulses. On the flip side, there are growing reports of insects developing resistance to phosphine (Benhalim et al. 2004). The misuse of phosphine in short exposures at high temperatures in poorly sealed enclosures has led to the development of resistant strains (Bell 2000). This has forced the farmers to use higher doses than the recommended limit, which eventually has turned ineffective and compromised the workers' and ecological safety. For achieving effectiveness, other chemicals like carbon dioxide, ethylene dibromide, methyl bromide and methyl iodide, and sulfur dioxide (Rajendran and Muthu 1989; Athié et al. 1998; Brice and Golob 2000) in combination with phosphine are being considered for fumigation purposes. These chemicals are cheap and are still in use in many countries. The combinations of chemicals are proving to be effective as of now. Inadequate dose and lack of airtightness during fumigation however becomes ineffective, presenting possible adverse effects on humans and the environment.

Ethyl Formate The phasing out of methyl bromide is paving the way for the use of ethyl formate as a stored grain fumigant. Ethyl formate was earlier used to disinfest fresh fruits and has been successfully used to disinfest various cereals, pulses, oil

seeds, spices, dry fruits, and nuts. A dose of 300–400 g/m³ for an exposure period of 48–72 h controls all the stages of insect life in stored grains and stored grain products. Muthu et al. (1984) have suggested the use of ethyl formate as fumigant in grain storage due to its low residue presence, which is below the permissible limit (250 ppm). Inadequate dose and lack of airtightness during fumigation, however becomes ineffective, presenting possible adverse effects on humans and the environment.

Sulfuryl Fluoride Sulfuryl fluoride is evolving as a new age fumigant, which may be accepted worldwide for disinfecting different grains. There are reports of success of this fumigant in warehouses, flour mills, and storage structures (Outram 1967; Chayaprasert et al. 2009; Baltaci et al. 2009; Tsai et al. 2011). This chemical has a good potential to act as a potent fumigant in stored pulses; however, airtightness should be maintained for the fumigant to be effective. This should be followed by aeration to eliminate the residual effect of the chemical.

Carbonyl Sulfide Carbonyl sulfide (COS) is another grain fumigant, a substitution to methyl bromide. It is to be noted that methyl bromide is to be phased out by 2015 in accordance with the Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances. COS is also supplementing phosphine gas which is experiencing increased insect resistance. COS has low acute inhalational toxicity. It is neither genotoxic nor a developmental toxicant; however, it may impair male fertility and cause neurotoxicity on prolonged, repeated exposure. The adverse effect of prolonged exposure of this fumigant may be prevented through suitable safety management practices, by proper aeration and scrubbing of ventilated COS, at the completion of fumigation (Bartholomaeus and Haritos 2005). Its efficacy as a fumigant against pulse bruchids has been reported by Ren and Mahon (2007) with a dose of 50 mg/l and an exposure time of 4 days. The residues were desorbed after 2 days of aeration. This chemical also has the potential for disinfection and can be used for a long time, provided suitable measurements are observed such as airtightness and aeration after the fumigation.

Carbon Dioxide Insects need oxygen for respiration like all living forms. When oxygen is replaced by carbon dioxide flushing in the storage place, this would create an adverse atmosphere for the insects. The enhanced CO₂ concentration would suffocate, dehydrate, and poison the insects (Navarro 2006; Navarro et al. 2012b). Elevated carbon dioxide levels must be maintained for a suitable time frame until all the insects die. The required exposure time depends on the carbon dioxide concentration and the temperature of the grains. Moreover, the prohibitive cost of CO₂ fumigation can be countered by using other fumigants in combination (Calderon and Carmi 1973; Banks and Pinkerton 1987; Riudavets et al. 2013). Mbata and

Reichmud (1996) observed effective disinfection of *C. subinnotatus* in bambara groundnuts while employing 100 % CO₂. Mbata et al. (1996) in their study suggested about 5–6 days of exposure time for 100 % mortality of pupal stage of *C. maculatus* and *C. subinnotatus*. It took only 48 h to kill the eggs and adult and 72 h for older adults in 100 % CO₂ atmosphere, at 32 °C and 70 % relative humidity (RH), in black eye cowpea and bambara groundnuts. Sinha et al. (2001) fumigated green gram with smoke produced by burning cow dung and achieved 80 % mortality in adult *C. maculatus* in 120 h of exposure. Banks and McCabe (1988) hypothesized that there may be a possibility of carbonation in the concrete bins and silos, which would result in corrosion of the structure with passage of time. Their observation was based on the absorption and desorption of CO₂ by the concrete walls of the bins during fumigation and aeration. They speculated that since the grains respire, producing CO₂ and water, which may form carbonic acid, would in turn corrode the iron parts of the storage structure. Since then, many concrete structures have been erected for grain and being fumigated with CO₂; no such adverse effects of CO₂ fumigation have come to the fore. Cheng et al. (2013) demonstrated the lethality of CO₂ on all developmental stages of *C. maculatus*. It was observed that eggs were most vulnerable to hypoxia caused by CO₂, particularly at the early stage. A CO₂ concentration of 18 % was sufficient to cause mortality in the insect. The lethality of CO₂ at different concentrations (50, 70, and 90 %) on *C. maculatus*, *A. obtectus*, and *Z. subfasciatus* was also demonstrated by Wong-Corral et al. (2013). Application of CO₂ fumigation comes with a price such as anaerobic respiration, production of alcohol and acids, and loss of seed viability.

Biogas Biogas as alternative to phosphine fumigation has been evaluated and found to be effective against pulse bruchids (Subramanya et al. 1994). Biogas from cow dung comprising mainly of 60 % methane and 40 % carbon dioxide was used as a fumigant in an airtight bin specially designed for the control of *C. chinensis* L. Biogas, when applied to the seeds and grains of pigeon pea, achieved 100 % mortality of eggs, grubs, and adults within a period of 10 days of fumigation. Biogas fumigation did not affect the seed germination, seedling vigor, or grain quality. No gaseous methane residues were left in the grain after the fumigation period (Mohan and Gopalan 1992). A similar work reported by Subramanya et al. (1994) revealed that exposure of different life stages of *C. chinensis* to biogas for 5 days using airtight containers was effective on all life stages except the pupal stage. In countries like India, where agriculture is still animal dependent and many farmers are rearing cattle for milk production, generation of biogas from the cattle dung is a feasible option. Considering its potential as an insecticide, the gas can be bottled, transported, and applied to the grains in sealed chambers as an integrated pest management technology for small holders. However, research is being conducted at CIAE,

Bhopal, India for collecting biogas in polyethylene chambers, which would be cost effective and easy to handle (personal communication). Once this technology is standardized, the problem of biogas collection and handling will be solved, and biogas can be used by small and marginal farmers to disinfect stored pulses easily.

Most fumigants are toxic to humans in high doses. Therefore, workers' safety issues should also be addressed while recommending any fumigant. For effective insect control, all fumigation practices should be carried out in airtight conditions for a suitable period of time and there should be aeration of grains, before allowing the workers to handle the grains.

Protectants

Grain protectants have been used since the 1960s in bulk grain storage systems; however, biological, sociological, and technological impacts have limited the use of protectants (Arthur 1996). The most common protectants used are malathion and pyrethrins plus piperonyl butoxide. The use of some insecticides, such as such as dimethoate, permethrin, carbosulfan, and malathion in stored products is facing restriction as some strains of *C. maculatus* have exhibited higher tolerance than normal to some insecticides (Mbata and Payton 2013). This has again raised the issue of biosafety for the use of these chemicals in higher doses in food commodities. Some of the present-day protectants including that of plant origin are discussed in brief in the following sections.

Malathion Malathion, once a widely used chemical, is toxic to insects if it comes into direct contact with the pest. It was considered one of the safest organophosphate insecticides as it was not highly toxic to humans or pets and broke down fast under tropical conditions (Titenko-Holland et al. 1997). Lalah and Wandiga (2002) applied malathion on bean and maize. The residue analysis revealed that malathion and its polar metabolites (malathion α - and β -monocarboxylic acids) were completely eliminated by boiling, though malaoxon was still detected in quite high quantities in the solvent extracts of cooked beans and maize. The addition of sodium chloride (NaCl) to the grains, however, increased the rate of removal of the residues from both maize grains and beans by boiling water. The effectiveness of these chemicals depends largely on the temperature and humidity of the storage environment and grain moisture level. Hunje et al. (1990) found that seed germination quality of cowpeas was not affected by the application of malathion (10 mg/kg seeds) during 6 months of storage period. The residue left after malathion exposure was found to be effective against controlling infestation of *C. maculatus* and *C. chinensis* in stored pulses (Azad and Srivastava 2007). The study of malathion residue on broad bean revealed that the content was reduced after 90 days of

storage and there was almost negligible presence in the hulled and processed beans. Washing alone reduces the contents of these chemicals by about 69 % of the initial value, while cooking will reduce up to 99 % residue in beans (Kamil et al. 1996). Insects have developed a strong resistance to malathion and now this has been banned for food grain use by many countries.

Dichlorvos (2,2-Dichlorovinyl Dimethyl Phosphate, DDVP) Dichlorvos had been in widespread use as a pesticide for control of insects and rodents for a variety of foods, including packaged foods, grains, fruits, vegetables, and non-food items like soil and storage containers (Green and Wilkin 1969; Bond et al. 1972; Elms et al. 1972; Desmarchelier et al. 1977). Most studies reported the use of dichlorvos for insect control in cereals and their derivatives (Green and Wilkin 1969; Desmarchelier et al. 1977). There are limited reports on the control of pulse beetles by dichlorvos. The rapid metabolism of dichlorvos and excretion by mammals has superseded its toxic effects. Its carcinogenicity and genotoxicity have been evaluated extensively and no concrete evidence of genotoxicity was found in humans (Ishmael et al. 2006; Booth et al. 2007). The residues are, however, dose dependent and decrease with storage duration. Some studies implied that there was no external residue of these pesticides in beans when applied at a dose of 12 and 24 mg insecticide/kg seeds on faba bean and soybeans before storage; however, some residue (8–11 %) was found bound inside the grain after the storage period (Zayed et al. 2007). These chemical residues in food grains, however, are of major concern, which limits its application in the stored food grains.

Fenitrothion Fenitrothion is a phosphorothioate insecticide. It is cheap and widely used worldwide. A lower dose of fenitrothion is more effective than malathion and dichlorvos. The effectiveness of this chemical, however, depends on the temperature and humidity conditions in the stored bin and grain moisture content. While no effect was observed within 2 weeks of storage at the high-temperature environment, a cooler environment presented better residual effect even after prolonged period of storage (Tyler and Green 1968) for pulses.

Pyrethroids Pyrethroids are synthetic insecticides based on oil or alcohol. It has low mammalian toxicity and environment persistence; however, it affects the central nervous system of the workers (Casida 1973). This insecticide has a synergistic effect on the insects when applied in combination with other contact insecticides like piperonyl butoxide (Wickham 1998). This protectant was found to be effective at 0.25 ppm for disinfecting wheat grains (Athanasios et al. 2004). Insects growing resistance to pyrethroids are being reported (Guedes et al. 1995) and also the toxicity effect on mammals may act as a deterrent for the future of this insecticide.

Chemical grain protectants have their residual effect on the grains. Moreover, there are reports of insect resistance to these chemicals. Hence, these chemicals do not have very promising future for food grains. They may be used with hazard restrictions.

Natural Products

Chemical fumigants and protectants have issues of leaving residue in the food grains. The growing concern over residue toxicity has opened the door for the usage of products of nonchemical nature for grain disinfestations. Though natural products have been in existence since ancient times, the evolution of chemical pesticides and commercialization had reduced its impact and use. However, natural products are still used by some farmers and traders. With more and more insects developing resistance to chemical pesticides, emphasis is now back on the use of natural products like plant extracts, inert dusts, etc. In the following sections, some of these products being used worldwide are discussed.

Inert Dusts

There is an increasing interest in employing inert dusts as insect control measures in the grain industry. These materials can be classified into different groups depending on their composition and particle size, i.e., nonsilica dusts and those composed of coarse grain silicates, such as kaolin and sand. These materials have been used traditionally as grain protectants by small-scale farmers in the developing world (Golob 1997). The usage of materials including diatomaceous earth and silica aerogels has been increasing in commercial storage in the developed world as replacement of chemical pesticides for control of a variety of common storage insect pests. The inert dusts remove the waxy layer of the cuticle of the exoskeleton by adsorption, resulting in water loss from the insect body that eventually leads to death by desiccation. Therefore, they are most effective in low humidity conditions. Usually, the dust form of these materials is applied in the grains; however, some are also reported to be effective when applied in water-based slurry form (Golob 1997). The natural inert dusts have some adverse effect on human health, resulting from inhalation, and concerns regarding abrasion of grain handling machinery. The synthetic inert dusts are overcoming such problems and are also effective in controlling primary pests of cereals and pulses (Golob 1997). Mortality of the insects depends largely on the amount of inert dust applied and the type rather than the duration of exposure (Vardeman et al. 2007). Fly ash, sand, kaolin, paddy husk ash, wood ash, and clays are commonly used by small-scale farmers in the developing world as grain protectants. The inert dusts should be applied at more than 5 % by weight of the total grain mass to be effective (Golob 1997).

Fly Ash Control of some insects can be achieved by using a nontoxic dust like fly ash which is produced from burning coal from the thermal power industries. This waste poses serious environmental hazard if not properly disposed off. Mendki et al. (2001) applied 1 g fly ash per 5 kg of pulses, viz. soybean (*G. max*), Bengal gram (*C. arietinum*), green gram (*V. radiata*), black gram (*Vigna mungo*), and red gram (*V. unguiculata*) under ambient storage conditions for 18 months and found that the fly ash effectively controlled the insect infestation at least for 12 months and no detrimental effect of fly ash on germination percentage or nutritional value of the pulses was observed.

Diatomaceous Earth (DE) DEs are amorphous dusts that are used to control insect growth. Natural and artificial DEs are applied as dusts, spray powder, suspensions, or granular forms (Mewis and Ulrichs 2001). The principle on which DEs work is desiccation. DEs cause water loss from the insects, resulting in death; however, at high RH (>60 %), they can reduce transpiration through the cuticle of the insect, thus affecting the lethality (Mewis and Ulrichs 2001). Stathers et al. (2004) applied commercial DE products at the rate of 0.02, 0.03, and 0.1 % (w/w) to eliminate *C. maculatus* on cowpea (*V. unguiculata* (L.) Walpers), and *A. obtectus* on red kidney bean (*P. vulgaris* L.). The adult mortality was observed after 3 days of exposure period, and it was found to be effective at lower humidity (50 %) as compared to 60 %. DEs are therefore recommended to be used in dry climates to be more effective and are not suitable for wet season or humid climates.

Silica Dusts Silica dusts gave variable results when used against different target organisms. To understand the basis for the variability, it is necessary to determine the mode of action of the dusts. Mewis and Ulrichs (2001) had compiled different theories that were proposed: (1) surface enlargement of the integument following dehydration; (2) impairment of the digestive tract; (3) blockage of spiracles and tracheae; (4) adsorption/absorption of cuticle lipids; and/or (5) damage of the protective wax layer. Furthermore, some authors related adsorption and/or absorption to symptoms of dehydration and to weight loss. Detailed mechanisms of dehydration are unknown, though it is postulated that the dust particles are trapped by the bodies of the insects as they walk over it. The dust is most effective against insects with setaceous and rough surfaces. Damage occurs to the insects' protective wax coat on the cuticle, mostly by sorption and to a lesser degree by abrasion, or both. The result is the loss of water from the insect's body through desiccation resulting in death (Korunic 1998). The efficacy of silica dust (500 µg silica dust/g wheat) was better at lower relative humidity (40 than 60 %) and higher temperature (30 than 20 °C) in controlling *R. dominica* (Aldryhim 1993).

Silica Aerogels Silica aerogels are produced by drying aqueous solutions of sodium silicate. The low dust density, hydrophobic powders are more effective than diatomaceous earth and require lower amounts to be applied on grains. The very low dust density has prevented the widespread application of these materials in the past because of the potential hazards which would occur during inhalation even for a small amount (Golob 1997). The natural dusts though proven effective are yet to be commercialized, as these need additional cleaning/sieving of the grains. Their use in the domestic and in the small holding is preferred.

Botanical Derivatives

Plant derivatives had long been used as insecticide or as fumigant for the stored grains and for food materials. Plant products have a great potential in pest management because of the nonphytotoxicity, systemicity, easy biodegradability, and stimulatory nature of the host metabolism (Dubey et al. 2008). They are still used by small-scale farmers and in households of the hinterlands of the African and Asian countries. Used widely until the 1940s, these natural pesticides were displaced by modern synthetic pesticides that at the time seemed cheaper, easier, and long-lasting (Dubey et al. 2008). Now that the ill effects of synthetic pesticides are haunting consumers and traders, researchers are now focusing more on the use of extracts and direct plant powders as an effective method of insect control. Though commercialization is not generally possible at this juncture, in the future, with advancing technologies, these methods may be easily adopted as integrated pest management (IPM) measures commercially, in the global arena. The biopesticides are biodegradable as they originated from plant sources and they do not leave toxic residues, hence can be used as green pesticides.

Vegetable Oil Application of vegetable oil on the surface of whole pulses also restricts the egg laying ability of the pulse beetle. In many parts of world, people apply neem oil, castor oil, and other edible oils on the whole and split dals to prevent insect attack (Ahmed et al. 1988; Khaire et al. 1992; Boeke et al. 2004a, b). Pulse beetle, a major pulse pest, which infests the whole grain, cannot lay eggs on smooth grain surface made more slippery by oil application on the grain surface (Lale and Mustapha 2000). Also, the structure of the eggs of different species of *Callosobruchus* discourages the oviposition on legume surface dabbed with oil. The vegetable oil has both ovicidal and larvicidal effect (Credland 1992). Most researchers reported that the germination of the seeds is not altered by the application of vegetable oil. Efficacy of vegetable oils for prevention of insect attack on various pulses is very well documented (Schoonhoven 1978; Varma and Pandey 1978; Hill and Schoonhoven 1981; Pandey et al. 1981; Messina and Renwick 1983; Ivbijaro 1984; Hall and

Harman 1991; Pacheco et al. 1995). Some of the results are compiled in Table 1. Application of vegetable oil to protect grains from insect invasion is being practiced domestically as well as in a small scale in India.

Plant Powders or Products Traditionally, various plant leaf powders, seed powder, and bark powders are used all over the world to control damage to grains, and many of them have no toxic effect on humans (Ogunwolu and Odunlami 1996; Kestenholz et al. 2007; Lehman et al. 2007). These plant products can directly be applied in powder form or as a biofumigant (Shaaya and Kostyukovsky 2009) or may be impregnated in the bags into which pulses are stored, to prevent insect growth and cause mortality of all insect growth stages. Several works have reported the efficacy of such botanical powders in preventing insect growth in food legumes (Schmidt et al. 1991; Saxena et al. 1992a, b; Shaaya et al. 1997; Kim et al. 2003; Park et al. 2003a; Sadeghi et al. 2006; Rajendran and Sriranjini 2008; Kumar et al. 2009; Shimizu and Hori 2009; Coelho et al. 2010). Some of the results are compiled in Table 2. This method is meant for domestic use or for small-scale farmers and dealers.

Plant Essential Oils Plant essential oils have various pharmaceutical, cosmetological, and pesticidal uses. Plant essential oils are recommended for use as potent pesticides worldwide as they are biodegradable and less detrimental to nontarget organisms as compared to synthetic pesticides (Dubey et al. 2008). Plant essential oils are usually obtained from various parts of the plant including the bark, leaf, flower, bud, seed, tubers, and rhizomes. They are extracted through ultrasound, microwave-assisted super critical fluid extraction, or hydro or steam distillation methods. They are a complex mixture of mainly terpenoids, particularly monoterpenes (C10) and sesquiterpenes (C15), and a variety of aromatic phenols, oxides, ethers, alcohols, esters, aldehydes, and ketones that determine the characteristic aroma and odor of the donor plant (Batish et al. 2008). These monoterpenoids are believed to build the chemical defense mechanism in plants, against phytophagous insects. The probable insecticidal properties of these biochemicals are now being researched extensively. Various plant extracts have been very well documented by researchers for their insect repellent as well insecticidal effects (Shaaya et al. 1997; Kim et al. 2003; Batish et al. 2008; Nerio et al. 2010; Kumar et al. 2011; Stamopoulos 1991). A study conducted by Koona et al. (2007) has shown that the use of jute bags impregnated with aqueous extracts from *Chenopodium ambrosioides* and *Lantana camara* significantly reduced damage to stored legume seeds from *A. obtectus* and *C. maculatus*. Considering the biodiversity of the world, more and more plant species with insecticidal effect are being identified. These locally available plant extracts may be used as a cheap source of insecticide. Sabbour and E-Abd-El-Aziz (2010)

Table 1 List of some vegetable oils as insect control measures in stored pulses

Insect species	Vegetable oil	Bioefficacy	References
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Neem, rape, coconut, mustard, mahua, sesame, and palm oils	1 ml/100 g seed against all stages of the pest. Neem, coconut, mustard, mahua, and sesame caused 100 % egg mortality, while the neem and coconut oils caused 100 % larval mortality and 100 % adult mortality in green gram	Ali et al. (1983)
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Sesame, cottonseed, palm, neem seed, groundnut, and coconut oils	0.25 % neem oil or 0.5 % coconut oil prevented insect infestation in green gram	Sujatha and Punnaiah (1985)
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Neem, karanja, mustard, groundnut, and castor oils	Karanja oil (5–10 ml/kg green gram), castor oil (10 ml/kg green gram), reduced oviposition over 18 months storage in green gram	Babu et al. (1989)
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Neem, groundnut, castor, soybean, and sesame oils	All oils 0.5–1.0 ml/100 g of chickpea seed reduced infestation. Neem and groundnut oils effective at 0.25 ml/100 g chick pea seed	Choudhary (1990)
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Groundnut, coconut, mustard, sesame, soybean, and rapeseed oils	Mustard (5 ml/kg) and coconut oils (3 ml/kg oil): least oviposition (34.3 eggs) in chick pea mustard oil-treated seeds (5 and 3 ml/kg) Groundnut, soybean, and rapeseed oils (1 ml/kg): minimum percentage adult emergence (0.5 %) in chick pea	Singal and Singh (1990)
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Neem oil castor, karanja, mustard, palm, sunflower, and groundnut oils	100 days storage, at a dose of 1 % reduced oviposition and increased mortality, neem and karanja oil, no emergence in pigeon pea	Khaire et al. (1992)
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Sunflower, castor bean, mustard, safflower, groundnut, palm, sesame, neem, karanja, and corn oils	Neem, castor bean, and karanja oils at 1 % effective against oviposition and egg hatching up to 100 days treatment in pigeon pea, no hatching up to 33 days	Kachare et al. (1994)
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>), karanja (<i>Pongamia glabra</i>) [<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>], mohua (<i>Madhuca latifolia</i>) [<i>Madhuca longifolia</i>], and palmolein oil (<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>)	0.5–1.0 % in green gram, protected against oviposition (25–50 %), neem oil most effective 5 % neem oil, 100 % adult emergence prohibition	Reddy et al. (1999)
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Coconut, mustard, sunflower, sesamum and mahua, neem, karanja, castor, tarpin, and noorani	All oils at 8 ml/kg pigeon pea prevented egg laying up to 9 months storage	Singh (2003)
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Sunflower, mustard, groundnut, sesame, soybean, olive, and palm oils	No adult emergence in pigeon pea treated with ground nut oil at 1 % up to 66 days storage	Khalequzzaman et al. (2007)
<i>C. chinensis</i> <i>C. maculatus</i> <i>C. rhodesianus</i>	Corn, groundnut, sunflower, and sesame oils	100 ml/kg for reduced oviposition in corn, sesame, ground nut, and sunflower seeds	Rajakakse and van Emden (1997)
<i>C. maculatus</i>	Neem kernel, karité, groundnut, palm kernel, and palm oils	3 ml neem seed oil/kg bambara ground nut: reduced oviposition 8 ml neem seed oil/kg cowpea: reduced oviposition, 3 months storage 3 ml neem seed oil/kg bambara ground nut: 6 months storage life	Pereira (1983)
<i>C. maculatus</i> <i>C. phaseoli</i>	Refined soybean and crude castor oils	Castor oil more effective at 10 ml/kg for <i>C. maculatus</i> for 150 days, <i>C. phaseoli</i> for 90 days in chick pea	Pacheco et al. (1995)
<i>C. maculatus</i>	Neem seed oil	75–100 mg oil/5 g reduced oviposition and higher mortality, damage 5 % (control 25 %) in cowpea	Lale and Mustapha (2000)
<i>C. maculatus</i>	Ground nut oil	5 ml/kg cowpea complete protection, for storage up to 180 days	Singh et al. (1978)
<i>C. rhodesianus</i>	Maize oil, a blend of cotton seed and soya oil, castor oil, and citrus oil	5 ml castor oil/kg cowpea most effective against oviposition and egg hatching	Giga and Munetsi (1990)

tested the efficacy of three essential oils, i.e., cumin, clove, and mustard oils against *Bruchidius incarnatus* (Boh.) and observed that mustard and clove oils had a strong repellent activity even after 7 days of storage. They recommended application of mustard oil and *Paecilomyces fumosoroseus* oil on foam covering gunny bags for oviposition deterrence,

toxicity, and suppressing *B. incarnatus* infestation for protecting broad bean seeds during storage. Some of the plant essential oils, their source, and the target stored pulse insects are presented in Table 3. Despite being naturally available with minimum toxicological effect on mammalian population, the use of essential oil as fumigant and repellent is still not

Table 2 List of some plant powders as insecticide in stored pulses

Insect species	Botanical name (plant parts)	Doses, bioefficacy (%)	References
<i>C. chinensis</i>	Dry leaves powder: <i>Syzygium cumini</i> L. <i>Aegle marmelos</i> L. <i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i> L. <i>Murraya koenigii</i> L. <i>Ammomum subulatum</i> Roxb. <i>Citrus medica</i> L.	Dose 2 % (w/w) in chick pea 34.98 (adult), 63.7 (oviposition) 45.04 (adult), 71.27 (oviposition) 80.03 (adult), 82.5 (oviposition) 75.07 (adult), 86.15 (oviposition) 25.07 (adult), 45.17 (oviposition) 65.01 (adult), 72.58 (oviposition)	Shukla et al. (2007)
<i>C. chinensis</i> L.	Dry leaves powder: <i>Tridax procumbens</i> L. <i>Withania somnifera</i> L. <i>Pongamia pinnata</i> L. <i>Gliricidia maculata</i> L.	Dose 20 mg/g pulse 100 (adult) 100 (adult) 73 (adult) 69 (adult)	Yankanchi and Lendi (2009)
<i>C. maculatus</i>	Dry seed powder: <i>Piper nigrum</i>	Dose 2 % w/w pulse 94 (oviposition)	Govindan and Nelson (2007)
<i>C. maculatus</i>	Rhizome: <i>Alpania officinarum</i> , <i>Curcuma longa</i> , <i>Paspalum scrobiculatum</i> Seeds: <i>Anamirta cocculus</i> , <i>Nelumbium speciosum</i> , <i>Strychnos nuxvomica</i> , <i>Terminalia chebula</i> Leaves: <i>Annona squamosa</i> , <i>Azadirachta indica</i> , <i>Celosia argentam</i> , <i>Cocinia indica</i> , <i>Nicotina tabacum</i> , <i>Tagetes erecta</i> Tubers: <i>Asparagus racemosus</i> and <i>Glorisa superb</i> Resin: <i>Canarium strictum</i> Fruits: <i>Capsicum annum</i> , <i>Helicteres isora</i> Bark: <i>Crataeva magna</i> , <i>Terminalia arjuna</i>	Dose 0.5 % in peas 94.44 (adult) with <i>Annona squamosa</i> + <i>Anamirta cocculus</i> 30 (oviposition) with <i>Nicotina tabacum</i> + <i>Helicteres isora</i>	Govindan and Nelson (2008)
<i>C. maculatus</i>	<i>Anchomanes difformis</i> (rhizome)	Dose 1.5 g/25 g in cowpea after 72 h exposure 100 % mortality of adults, 30 % adult emergence	Akinkurolere (2007)
<i>C. maculatus</i>	<i>Annona muricata</i> L., <i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers., <i>Annonaceae</i> , <i>Azadirachta indica</i> , <i>Blumea aurita</i> L., <i>Carica papaya</i> L., <i>Chamaecrista nigricansa</i> , <i>Clausena anisata</i> (Willd.), <i>Combretum micranthum</i> , <i>Cratava religiosa</i> , <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> , <i>Dracaena arborea</i> (Willd.), <i>Ficus exasperata</i> , <i>Iboza multiflora</i> (Benth.), <i>Momordica charantia</i> L., <i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam., <i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L., <i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forsskal), <i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i> , <i>Tagetes minuta</i> L., <i>Tephrosia vogelii</i> (leaves) <i>Capsicum frutescens</i> L. (fruits) <i>Heliotropium indicum</i> and <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L. (twigs and flowers) <i>Hyptis spicigera</i> Lam. and <i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> (L.) (leaves and flowers) <i>Khaya senegalensis</i> (Desr.) (bark) <i>Opilia celtidifolia</i> (Guill. and Perr.) (flowers)	Dose 25 g/kg cowpea Insect mortality ranged between 10 and 100 %, with highest efficacy from <i>N. tabacum</i> and lowest <i>C. papaya</i> At 10 g <i>Capsicum frutescens</i> L./kg cowpea prevented oviposition	Boeke et al. (2004a)
<i>C. maculatus</i> <i>C. chinensis</i> <i>C. rhodesianus</i>	Leaves: <i>Citrus sinensis</i> L., <i>C. limon</i> L., <i>C. aurantifolia</i> L., <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> (DC), <i>Cinnamomum camphor</i> L., <i>Monodora myristica</i> L., Rhizome: <i>Zingiber zerumbet</i> and <i>Z. spectabile</i> L.	Dose 200–300 g/kg legume seeds, reduced oviposition	Rajapakse and van Emden (1997)

commercially viable because of the following few reasons: (i) the scarcity of the natural resource; (ii) the need for chemical standardization and quality control; and (iii) difficulties in registration of these materials as insecticides (Isman 2000). Considering the insect-repellent properties of these essential oils, which are effective in low quantities, they may be used in formulating green fumigants, after getting clearance from the legislation bodies. The effectiveness of natural products is proven by experiments only; however, most of the natural products are not present in legislation yet. These biochemicals have to clear the mammalian toxicity tests before being adopted in the integrated pest management system

(Mbata and Payton 2013). They may be useful for small holding and domestic application, albeit with precaution.

Physical Treatments

Issues like the development of resistance to chemical pesticides by stored grain insect pests, residual chemicals in stored food grains, and worker and environmental safety have contributed to imposition of stricter restrictions on the use of chemicals. The focus of research is now on the physical methods or alternate methods of insect control. These methods can be very simple methods which utilize renewable or local

Table 3 List of some plant essential oils as insecticide in stored pulses

Insect species	Botanical name of plant essential oil source	References
<i>Acanthoscelides obtectus</i>	<i>Apium graveolens</i> , <i>Azadirachta indica</i> , <i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i> , <i>Cinnamomum verum</i> , <i>Citrus sinensis</i> , <i>Cupressus lusitanica</i> , <i>Eucalyptus globules</i> , <i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> , <i>Lavandula hybrida</i> , <i>Mentha microphylla</i> , <i>Mentha viridis</i> , <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> , <i>Origanum vulgare</i> , <i>Pistacia terebinthus</i> , <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> , <i>Thuja orientalis</i> , <i>Thymus serpyllum</i> , <i>Thymus vulgaris</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> L., <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> L., <i>Achillea millefolium</i> L., <i>Allium sativum</i> , <i>Cymbopogon nardus</i> , <i>Laurus nobilis</i> , <i>Origanum serpyllum</i> , <i>Satureia hortensis</i> , <i>Tilia cordata sylvestris</i>	Papachristos and Santamopoulos (2002a, b, 2003, 2004), Paul et al. (2009), Tapondjou et al. (2002), Regnault-Roger and Hamraoui (1993, 1994, 1995), Regnault-Roger et al. (1993; 2004), Jovanović et al. (2007)
<i>Bruchus dentipes</i>	<i>Achillea gypsicola</i> , <i>Hypericum scabrum</i> L., <i>Origanum acutidens</i> , <i>Satureja hortensis</i> L.	Tozlu et al. (2011)
<i>Callosobruchus chinensis</i>	<i>Acorus gramineus</i> , <i>Acorus calamus</i> L., <i>Aegle marmelos</i> L., <i>Ammomum subulatum</i> Roxb., <i>Calotropis procera</i> , <i>Chamaecyparis obtuse</i> , <i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i> , <i>Cinnamomum glaucescens</i> , <i>Citrus medica</i> , <i>Cochleria aroracia</i> , <i>Cymbopogon martini</i> , <i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i> L., <i>Lantana camara</i> , <i>Murraya koenigii</i> L., <i>Syzygium cumini</i> L., <i>Withania somnifera</i>	Saxena et al. (1992a, b), Tapondjou et al. (2002), Kim et al. (2003), Park et al. (2003b), Salunke et al. (2005), Kumar et al. (2007), Gupta and Srivastava (2008), Shukla et al. (2009), Prakash et al. (2013)
<i>Callosobruchus maculatus</i>	<i>Acacia arabica</i> , <i>Artemisia sieberi</i> Besser, <i>Azadirachta indica</i> , <i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i> , <i>Blumea aurita</i> , <i>Boscia senegalensis</i> , <i>Capsicum annum</i> , <i>Capsicum frutescens</i> , <i>Carthamus tinctorius</i> , <i>Cassia sophora</i> , <i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i> , <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> (L.), <i>Citrus sinensis</i> , <i>Clausena anisata</i> , <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> (DC) Stapf., <i>Cymbopogon giganteus</i> , <i>Cymbopogon nardus</i> , <i>Cymbopogon schoenanthus</i> , <i>Dracaena arborea</i> , <i>Eucalyptus globules</i> , <i>Eugenia uniflora</i> L., <i>Heliotropium bacciferum</i> , <i>Hyptis spicigera</i> , <i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> , <i>Ipomoea sepiaria</i> , <i>Kaya senegalensis</i> , <i>Lantana camara</i> L., <i>Lippia adoensis</i> Hoschst, <i>Lippia multiflora</i> , <i>Mentha arvensis</i> , <i>Mentha piperata</i> , <i>Mentha spicata</i> , <i>Momordica charantia</i> , <i>Moringa olifera</i> , <i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> , <i>Ocimum americanum</i> , <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> , <i>Ocimum canum</i> , <i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> , <i>Piper guineense</i> , <i>Ricinus communis</i> , <i>Rhazya stricta</i> , <i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i> , <i>Sesamum indicum</i> , <i>Syzygium aromaticum</i> , <i>Tagetes minuta</i> , <i>Tephrosia vogelii</i> , <i>Thevitia nerifolia</i> , <i>Zingiber officinale</i> , <i>Vitex negundo</i>	Lale (1992), Gbolade and Adebayo (1993), Ajayi and Lale (2000), Elhag (2000), Lale and Mustapha (2000), Kéita et al. (2000, 2001), Raja et al. (2001), Tapondjou et al. (2002), Mbaiguinam et al. (2006), Negahban et al. (2006, 2007), Sanon et al. (2002), Pascual-Villalobos and Ballesta-Acosta (2003), Boeke et al. (2004a, b), Ketoh et al. (2005), Rahman and Talukder (2006), Kestenholz et al. (2007), Nyamador et al. (2010), Ilboudo et al. (2010)
<i>Callosobruchus phaseoli</i>	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Rahman and Schmidt (1999)
<i>Callosobruchus subinnotatus</i>	<i>Cymbopogon giganteus</i> , <i>Cymbopogon nardus</i>	Nyamador et al. (2010)
<i>Zabrotes subfasciatus</i>	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> , <i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i> , <i>Cupressus lusitanica</i> , <i>Ocimum canum</i>	Paul et al. (2009), Weaver et al. (1991, 1994)

materials such as sun drying, sand layer application, repeated sieving, etc. Some of these techniques are discussed in the following subsections.

Simple Technologies

Sieving Simple sieving and aspiration can also reduce the insect population (Nahdy 1994; Armitage et al. 1996). Repeated sieving of infested grains can reduce insect infestation. This method can be easily adopted by small-scale farmers and traders with small holdings. In Uganda, Nahdy (1994) observed that repeated sieving every 5 days over a period of 50 days can control *A. obtectus* in stored beans up to 150 days after last sieving. A similar practice is followed in rural households and small

holdings in tropical countries as an insect control measure. Freshly harvested grains stored in bins (37 tons), when cleaned using sieves, effectively controlled the insect population; however, the efficacy depended on the sieve size and insect type (Armitage 1994). Armitage et al. (1996) utilized aspirated sieve to remove, the insects but the insect population again increased during storage, which indicated that some of the grains that were already infested with the eggs would require repeated sieving or other severe treatments. The experiment was conducted on 1 kg sample with 1 and 2 mm sieves. Sieving as such cannot take care of the grains already damaged. It certainly can prevent further growth of insects and damage caused by them. This practice is suitable for domestic application, with knowledge of low quality of the food.

Application of Sand Layer While storing the pulses in containers, farmers can apply a thick layer of about 3 cm of locally available sieved fine sand on the top of the pulses and tightly close the lid. The application of sand layer above the grain is a physical barrier that fills the intergranular spaces in the top layers thereby effectively disrupting the reproduction of bruchids and preventing further infestation of pulses (Karthikeyan et al. 2006). The pulses treated by this method can be effectively stored for 1 year without any infestation as long as the sand layer is not disturbed and pulses are not exposed. This practice can only be adopted at the domestic level.

Aeration and Cooling

The most important of the many purposes for using aeration is to cool the grain to control insect infestations (Hunter and Taylor 1980; Navarro and Noyes 2002; Navarro et al. 2012a). A rule of thumb is that if the grain can be cooled below 20 °C, insect development is significantly slowed, and cooling the grain to about 8 °C arrests insect development (Burrell 1967). This is true for the major storage pests originating from warm climates, whose optimum temperatures for development range between 25 and 35 °C (Fields 1992; Donahaye 2000). Sinha and Watters (1985) (as cited by Rulon et al. 1999) reported that the egg laying ability of insects drops down below a storage temperature of 15 °C and the eggs laid above 15 °C will not hatch below this temperature. For most stored product insects, 25–33 °C is optimal for growth and reproduction; at 13–25 or at 33–35 °C, insects are able to complete their development and produce offspring, but at temperatures <13 or >35 °C, insects eventually die (Fields 1992). Storing the grains below 10 °C also lowers the metabolic rate of these insects and their growth (Beckett 2011), and at –20 °C, the insects will die immediately. However, exposure of grains to –20 °C storage temperature would require higher energy consumption and therefore is not a practical solution. The pupae and adults of the bruchids are equally heat tolerant and the pupae is especially cold tolerant. A study conducted by Loganathan et al. (2011) revealed that the lethal time for the pupae of *C. maculatus* population to reduce by 50 % was 274 and 122 min and 7 and 2 h for chick peas stored at 0, –5, –10, and –15 °C, respectively. Therefore, grain chilling can be a suitable integrated pest management practice in order to ward off infestation. Since insect growth and metabolic rates are influenced by temperature, a low temperature will eventually influence the growth of insects and their hatching behavior. An economic analysis of grain chilling for wheat grain done by a group of scientist in the USA revealed that the annual operating costs of chilled aeration were almost half as compared to phosphine fumigation with aeration at ambient conditions (Rulon et al. 1999). Though grain chilling could be a practical solution in temperate

climates, for tropical and subtropical climates, grain chillers may be burdensome; however, the use of environment-friendly renewable energy sources like solar energy-based grain chillers such as solar-regenerated grain cooling device, solar-regenerated open-cycle desiccant bed grain cooling system, solar adsorption chillers, and solid adsorption-desiccant cooling system, which have been applied to different grains, can be adopted for stored pulses (Ismail et al. 1991; Thorpe 1998; Dai et al. 2002; Luo et al. 2006, 2007) to minimize grain cooling cost. Since during cooling the insect growths are arrested, but they are not killed, this method of control should be used as a preventive rather than a curative method.

Heating

Direct heating or cooling of grains is used extensively to control stored product insects. Using extreme temperatures can be lethal for insects of all stages. The higher the temperature, the more quickly the insects will die, with death occurring within a few minutes at –20 or 55 °C. Lethal temperatures for insects vary considerably and depend on species, stage of development, acclimation, and relative humidity (Fields 1992). Saxena et al. (1992b) exposed pupae of different stages of *C. chinensis* to high temperature; it was revealed that the insects developed sterility when exposed to temperature of 45 °C for 72 h. Since pulse proteins are sensitive to temperature above 60 °C, heating the pulses up to 55 °C for a few minutes can rid the pulses of insects of all stages without compromising much on the quality. Moreover, heating of grain silos/bins prior to storage of grains can provide some control of insects, which are already present in the storage structures and houses. Tilley et al. (2007) recommended heating of silos/bins to at least 50 °C and holding for 2–4 h to be effective in controlling some of the storage insects. This method can be an alternative to storage bin/silo fumigation as prestorage treatment. Thermal disinfestation methods though effective need to be carefully monitored for the temperature and time combinations as these may exceed the prescribed limit and severely damage the pulse quality. Loganathan et al. (2011) found that at 42 °C, the lethal time to reduce survival of *C. maculatus* egg, larvae, pupae, and adults was 18, 57, 78, and 71 h, respectively. Miceli and Miceli (2012) recommended the exposure of chick peas and lentils to 60 °C for 60 min but recommended cool treatment for kidney beans at –18 °C for not more than 24 h, so as to maintain the viability and cooking quality of these food legumes. Heating during drying or otherwise though effective affects the seed availability and other quality losses, if a high temperature is used. Care should be taken not to expose the grains to a very high temperature, which may lead to loss of protein and other nutritive value of the food legumes.

Sunning Since all stages of insect life—egg, larva, pupae, and adults—are heat sensitive, manipulation of the temperature of the storage environment has been practiced since a long time, usually in the form of sunning, solar heating, or other heating methods. Freshly harvested pulse grains should be dried in the sun for 3–5 days. Sunning can kill the insects to a large extent, since insects, especially bruchids, are sensitive to heat, and temperatures above 45 °C are fatal for them. After sunning, the grains should be cleaned, cooled, and stored in suitable metal/plastic bins/large earthen pots/brick/cement storage structure with tight lids. Some of the species are more susceptible to temperature than others. Sunning is usually done by spreading the grains on mats or threshing yard. Gbaye et al. (2011) have demonstrated that the temperature of the grains can be raised up to 52 °C, when sunning of grains was carried out in thin layers on a concrete floored threshing yard or on a black tarpaulin or black polyethylene sheet under the hot sun. Adopting this method would effectively kill all the life stages of bruchids and remove the existing field infestation. Lale (1998) observed that oviposition of the bruchid was reduced, and the mortality rate of adult insects was increased after 3 h of sunlight exposure. Sun drying of pulses on different surfaces also affects retention of its functional properties and the extent of insect infestation. Chinwada and Gigam (1996) found the sunning method to be effective in controlling *Z. subfasciatus* (Boheman) and *A. obtectus* in beans and recommended daily 5 h exposure periods of seeds to sun heating for successive 5 day duration. A study carried out in Nigeria, Africa, revealed that sun drying of cowpea on a wooden surface was better compared to concrete and corrugated iron steel surface in terms of retention of better functional properties and reduction in fungal and insect load. Even a 5 h exposure to the sun, can greatly reduce the microbial and insect infestation (Ugwu et al. 1999). It is observed that during solar heating of pigeon pea on polyethylene sheets, the seed temperature may increase to 65 °C, which is lethal enough to eradicate storage insects like bruchids. Exposing the seeds to sun heating for 7 days caused the pulses to be 100 % insect free for over 14 weeks of storage with no damage to germination ability (Chauhan and Ghaffar 2002). This practice is economical and may be adopted at the farm level. Though sunning or sun drying as a cheap renewable energy source is widely practiced in many developed and developing countries (Esper and Mühlbauer 1998) and has been in practice for centuries, uncertain weather and temperature variation during day- and nighttime can play havoc if the grains are not properly conditioned having suitable storage moisture content. A heating system based on solar energy (Baoua et al. 2012a) can also be used as a disinfestation unit and drying unit.

Mechanical Heating System One of the physical methods of grain disinfestation is heating, which can be accomplished by direct sun exposure or solar heating, but these methods are

weather dependent and are especially troublesome for the crops which are harvested during less sunshine hours or during rainy and winter season. Therefore, mechanical driers, run on fossil fuel or electric energy, are used worldwide for hot air disinfestations of grains. Such mechanical dryers can also double up as disinfestation unit and drying units (Thorpe 1997) and are cost effective, where product quality can be maintained, infestation can be reduced, and further growth can be arrested. Exposure in these units to temperatures above 50 °C for a few minutes can completely eliminate storage insects (Dermott and Evans 1978; Evans et al. 1983).

Dielectric Heating The use of microwave (MW)/radiofrequency (RF) energy has been applied to drying, a pretreatment to drying, sterilization, pasteurization, extraction of phytochemicals, product development, etc. (Orsat and Raghavan 2005; Giri and Prasad 2007; Marra et al. 2009). Dielectric heating has been successful in disinfesting various pests in fruits, vegetables, stored grains, and food commodities (Wang and Tang 2004; Sumnu and Sahin 2005; Marra et al. 2009; Yadav et al. 2012). Dielectric heating causes volumetric heating in the insects that eventually kills all stages of insects (Wang et al. 2008, 2010). Moreover, there is a change in the DNA structure of the insects, which affects their reproductive behavior (Lu et al. 2010, 2011), a feature which is advantageous in grain pest management. Studies have indicated that there was abnormality in the insects/pupae exposed to MW heating (Carpenter and Livstone 1971; Olsen 1982). Dielectric properties of grains and insects vary substantially due to their composition differences, and thus, there is differential heating when the pulses infested with insects are exposed to dielectric heating systems (Jiao et al. 2011). A RF heating system generally consists of two main components: (i) a generator and (ii) an applicator. The generator section is where the RF power is generated, and the applicator section is where the material is placed and heated. MW heating system generally consists of MW generator or magnetron, wave guide, and applicator (Mohapatra and Mishra 2011). RF has the advantage over MW in that it can penetrate to a greater depth (22 m at 13.56 MHz) as compared to MW (0.3 to 7 cm at 2,450 to 915 MHz), is simpler in construction, and has higher electric to electromagnetic power conversion, hence can be used for handling bulk samples (Shrestha and Baik 2013). The application for handling bulk samples is of importance to grain storage, as RF heating can be employed to disinfest bulk samples in conveyors and bags.

Extensive research on disinfestations of various grains, including pulses using RF and MW, has been taken up in many countries like the USA and Canada and these methods have been found to be effective pest control measures. This technology is environment-friendly, the disinfestations process takes about a few minutes, and there is no chemical hazard associated with it, since it is

regarded as safe (Mohapatra and Mishra 2011). Moreover, the time taken for reaching the temperature of the grains due to volumetric heating is far less compared to hot air heating (Wang et al. 2010). However, there was a decrease in the germination rate of the seeds treated by these treatments although the product cooking qualities were not influenced significantly (Jiao et al. 2011).

Microwave and radiofrequency heating had been used in disinfesting various grains including pulses (Shayesteh and Barthakur 1996; Jiao et al. 2012). Though MW/RF heating is uneven (Vadivambal and Jayas 2008; Wang et al. 2010), this problem can be overcome by flushing the system for disinfesting bulk samples or packaged grains with hot air (Das et al. 2013). Moreover, dielectric heating is associated with the change in product quality (Vadivambal and Jayas 2007; Zhao et al. 2007b) even for a few generations (Dolińska et al. 2004; Zhao et al. 2007a) and reduced seed viability (Singh et al. 2012); this may act as a deterrent to the adoption of MW or RF heating as disinfestation measures for seed grains. Some of the RF/MW disinfestation systems developed worldwide for various grains and nuts are presented in Table 4. Care should also be taken not to allow the temperature of the grain to rise above 55 °C, to avoid nutrition loss.

Ionizing Radiation

Ionizing radiation has been used in many countries as a pest control measure as well as a quarantine measure (Ignatowicz and Brzostek 1990). It is used for achieving 100 % mortality of insects in storage materials. Ionizing radiation in the form of electromagnetic radiance or high-energy particles creates ions by breaking chemical bonds, hence fragments the DNA structure of the pest to which it is exposed (Todoriki et al. 2006; Hasan et al. 2012). Gamma rays generated from the isotopes cobalt-60 and cesium-137 are generally used for food. The doses that various countries apply for pulse grains vary from 1 to 10 kGy (Hallman 2013) for quarantine treatment and insect mortality. At lower doses, the ionizing radiation sterilizes the pests, which then can be released into the infested areas to mate, thereby controlling the pest population (Cornwell 1959; Hasan and Khan 1998); at higher doses, total insect mortality was observed within 7 days of radiation exposure. Since the disinfestations can be done without any heating effect, the functional qualities of the pulses are maintained. Various research works have corroborated the fact that radiation doses do not affect the protein quality, other nutritional qualities, cooking quality, and germination rate of pulses significantly (Delincée et al. 1998; Villavicencio et al. 2000; Ocloo et al. 2012; Yun et al. 2013). The antinutritional factors in the pulses are found to be reduced (Siddhuraju et al. 2002), and in some cases, the bioavailability of iron in beans increased (Brigide and Canniatti-Brazaca 2006). The use of irradiated grains is limited but authorized in many developed

countries; however, the commodity must be labeled. In India, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has set up some irradiation facilities, which are used to irradiate grains and spices. Irradiation of commodities like pulse grains has not garnered much emphasis in India, as the establishment of this facility requires lots of investment and there are mandatory safety guidelines to be followed.

Impact

Certain insects are vulnerable to the physical impact caused by moving pulses. Pneumatic conveyors and centrifugal separators subject the pulse kernels to large forces and operate at high pressure. As insects go through the pneumatic conveyer or centrifugal separator, they are killed. Like the high-temperature treatment, this method may be useful when the pulse grain is being moved for sale (Donahaye 2000).

Ozone Treatment

Ozone (O₃) application is currently being explored as an alternative pest control measure. Its use in stored grains is being investigated because of its inherent advantages, such as (i) it can be electrically generated on-site at the time of use, eliminating the need to store and dispose of insecticide packages; and (ii) it leaves no residue. Ozone has been used to control stored pests in legumes (Sousa et al. 2008). The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved its use as a direct additive for food treatment, storage, and processing (Sousa et al. 2008). Based on reviews, the following facts have been found: (1) O₃ significantly suppressed insect populations at ≤50 ppm with 4 days of treatment; (2) O₃ at >135 ppm with more than 8 days of treatment could be used for eradication of insect infestation; (3) O₃ at 50 ppm with 3 days of treatment could reduce 63 % of stored fungi; (4) O₃ at 5–30 ppm could reduce mycotoxin contamination; however, high concentration and long treatment times were required to eliminate mycotoxins; (5) application of O₃ at doses that were sufficient for the effective disinfestation of grain might affect the qualities of grain; and (6) O₃ at 47–106 ppm could noticeably damage equipment in 2 months by corrosion (Jian et al. 2013). However, the technology for the production and application of O₃ in grain storage installations has not been commercialized because of its prohibitive cost.

Storage Environment

Storage conditions largely affect insect growth rate as the insects depend on oxygen and moisture for their survival apart from food. People all around the world use different storage structures, which modify the microenvironment, and thereby prohibit insect growth. This knowledge has been passed from generation to generation. Various systematic scientific studies

Table 4 Dielectric heating disinfestation of different stored grains

Commodity	Heating source	Target insect	Results	References
Chick pea, green gram, pigeon pea	MW, 2.45 GHz	<i>Callosobruchus malculatus</i>	600 W/200 g, exposure time=90–110 s, 100 % mortality at 10–12 % moisture content (mc) (wb)	Singh et al. (2012)
Chickpeas, green peas, and lentils	RF, 27 MHz	<i>Callosobruchus maculatus</i>	60 °C for 10 min, 100 % mortality at 8 % mc (wb)	Johnson et al. (2010)
Green gram	MW, 2.45 GHz	Weevil	808 W, exposure time=80 s, 99.5 % mortality, 8.9 % mc (wb)	Pande et al. (2012)
Green gram	MW, 2.45 GHz	<i>Callosobruchus malculatus</i> Egg, young and old larvae, pupae, adult	400 W/50 g, 28 s exposure time, 100 % mortality for all stages, at 11.4 % mc (wb)	Purohit et al. (2013)
Green gram	MW, 2.45 GHz	<i>Callosobruchus malculatus</i> Adult	1.5–13 W/g, 50–120 s exposure time, 100 % mortality, 8 % mc (wb)	Mohapatra et al. (2014)
Lentil	RF, 27.12 MHz, +60 °C hot air	Cowpea weevil	6 kW/6.4 kg, 100 % mortality, 20 min exposure time, at 6.9 % mc (wb)	Jiao et al. (2012)
Paddy	MW, 20–200 GHz	<i>Rhyzopertha dominica</i>	1 kW, 60 s, 100 % mortality, at 27 mc (% db)	Ahmed et al. (2011)
Paddy/rough rice	RF, 27 MHz	<i>Rhyzopertha dominica</i> <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i>	60 °C for 1 h, 100 W/200 g, 100 % mortality, 60 °C (0.5 h) at 0.3 to 27.12 MHz, at 11 and 13.5 % mc (wb)	Lagunas-Solar et al. (2007)
Rice	MW	<i>Sitophilus oryzae</i> L. (eggs and adults)	100 % mortality at 0.017 kWh/kg energy consumption, final rice temperature=55 °C, 13–14 % mc (wb)	Zhao et al. (2007a)
Walnut	RF 27 MHz	<i>Cydia pomonella</i> [L.] <i>Amyelois transitella</i> [Walker] <i>Plodia</i> [Hübner]	12 kW/2.5 kg, 55 °C (7.3 min), 100 % mortality at 3–15 % mc (wb)	Mitcham et al. (2004)
Walnut	RF, 27 MHz	<i>Amyelois transitella</i>	25 kW/11 kg, 75 m/h belt speed, 52 °C, for 5 min, 100 % mortality, at 3–7.5 % mc (wb)	Wang et al. (2007)
Walnut (in-shell)	RF, 27 MHz+hot air 55 °C	<i>Amyelois transitella</i> Fifth instars	1 kW/kg, 100 % mortality RF heating to 55 °C and holding for 5 min in hot air, 2.6 % kernel, 7.8 % (shell) mc	Wang et al. (2002)
Walnut (in-shell)	RF, 27 MHz	<i>Cydia pomonella</i> (L.)	0.27 kW/kg, 3 min in RF, 53 °C, 100 % mortality	Wang et al. (2001)
Wheat	MW (2.45 GHz)	<i>Tribolium confusum</i> , <i>Lasioderma serricornis</i> , <i>Corcyra cephalonica</i> , or <i>Rhyzopertha dominica</i> (all stages)	850 W/20 g, 50 °C for 50 s, 100 % mortality	El-Naggar and Mikhael (2011)
Wheat	MW, 10.6 GHz	<i>Sitophilus zeamais</i> Motschulsky <i>Tribolium castaneum</i>	93 % mortality, 51 J/g 94 % mortality, specific energy input 53 J/g	Halverson et al. (1996)
Wheat	MW	<i>Rhyzopertha dominica</i> (F.) <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i> <i>Sitophilus oryzae</i> (L.)	82 % mortality, 88 % mortality, 90 % mortality, 10 s exposure time	Kirkpatrick et al. (1971)
Wheat	MW+gamma	<i>Rhyzopertha dominica</i>	99 % mortality with MW+gamma	Kirkpatrick et al. (1973)
Wheat	MW, 2.45 GHz	<i>Tribolium castaneum</i> <i>Cryptolestes ferrugineus</i> <i>Sitophilus granaries</i> (pupae, larvae, adults)	500 W/50 g, 28 s 100 % mortality of all stages for moisture range 14–18 % (wb)	Vadivambal et al. (2007)
Wheat	MW, 8.5 GHz and 30 W	<i>Tribolium confusum</i>	Mortality at 60 °C	Watters (1976)
Wheat, barley, and rye	MW, 2.45 GHz	<i>Tribolium castaneum</i> (Herbst), <i>Sitophilus granarius</i> (L.), and <i>Cryptolestes ferrugineus</i>	500 W/50 g, exposure time=28 s, 100 % mortality at 14–18 % mc (wb)	Vadivambal (2009)

conducted for storage of grains, including pulses, are re-establishing the age old practices of using the hermetic system for safe grain storage. By modifying the storage atmosphere (modified atmosphere (MA) storage) and controlling the gas composition (controlled atmosphere (CA) storage) by artificially

flushing the storage containers/bins with CO₂ or N₂ prevent insect growth (Navarro 2012). Banks (1984) compiled various literatures citing the effects of low oxygen and higher carbon dioxide systems for the storage of grains. The atmospheres considered are (i) low oxygen systems

(<1 %) in nitrogen, (ii) nitrogen/CO₂ mixtures (O₂<1 %), (iii) high CO₂ (>70 %), (iv) intermediate CO₂ (40 %) mixtures, and (v) hermetic storages or MA storage (<6 % O₂, >14 % CO₂). To develop a high carbon dioxide in the storage pits, mostly local resources are used apart from other processes which are basically oxygen depletion systems or nitrogen flushing systems, including pressure swing absorption systems; burners fueled with propane, producer gas, biogas, or hydrogen; various forms of enhanced hermetic storage systems; fermentation processes; and electrolytic or photolytic oxygen removal systems. Some of such methods are delineated in the following paragraphs.

Inert Atmosphere In various parts of the world, storing grains in inert atmosphere has proven to be beneficial in reducing insect load and maintaining the quality as compared to air storage (Adesuyi et al. 1980). Inert atmospheric conditions can kill insects of all life stages. Ofuya and Reichmuth (1993) treated adults, eggs, larvae, and pupae of the cowpea bruchid, *C. maculatus* (F.) and the bean bruchid, *A. obtectus*, to 100 % nitrogen (N₂) atmosphere at 25 and 32 °C, respectively, and at 70±5 % relative humidity. Irrespective of the storage temperatures, 100 % mortality was achieved within 1–9 days of exposure for all the stages of pulse bruchids.

Controlled Atmospheric Storage CAs offer an effective, safe, and residue-free alternative to chemical fumigants and protectants for controlling insects and mites infesting stored grain and grain products. CA treatment for stored product protection involves two main methods of producing physiological and biochemical stress in the pest organisms: an increase in the carbon dioxide (CO₂) content of the storage environment producing hypercarbia, or a reduction in the oxygen (O₂) content, obtained usually by flushing with nitrogen (N₂), producing hypoxia or anoxia (Cheng et al. 2012, 2013). Some studies have demonstrated the capability of some stored product insects to develop tolerance to CA treatments. As with chemical protectants and fumigants, development of tolerance by insects to CA would be disadvantageous. Methods for enhancing CA action such as the use of the synergistic effect of high CO₂ and low O₂ in mixtures and manipulation of storage temperature and RH may be important in forestalling or preventing the phenomenon of pest tolerance (Navarro and Calderon 1980). Mbata et al. (2000) observed that exposing three stages (pupae, early pharate, and late pharate adults) of *C. subinnotatus* to different atmospheres (CO₂/N₂/O₂, (i) 0:98:2, (ii) 60:32:8, (iii) 0:99:1, and (iv) 99:0:1, at 10 °C and 76 % RH) affected the insects' metabolic growth rate in bambara nuts. The hypercarbic atmospheres required lesser period to cause mortality than the hypoxic atmospheres. Late pharate adults died earlier than pupae or early pharate adults. Those, late pharate adults that survived the exposure took a longer time to eclose than the pupae or early pharate adults.

Ofuya and Reichmuth (2002) demonstrated that mortality of eggs and adults of the bruchid stored in air saturated with 70 % CO₂ and in 1.0 % O₂ in nitrogen (N₂) was higher at 10.3 and 34.2 % than at 70.2 and 90.3 % RH, respectively. Their study revealed that mortality of larvae and pupae of the bruchid was not affected by RH of the storage space. Development period was longer for adults emerging from bruchid eggs exposed for 12 h to these atmospheres at the lower RH. Freshly emerged adult bruchids from treated eggs also laid fewer eggs after 12 h of exposure to these atmospheres at lower RH. Though the CA storage is effective against infestation, it causes darkening of the seed coat and contributes to other physiochemical changes. A study conducted by Nasar-Abbas et al. (2008) revealed that faba bean seeds under CA storage in O₂ for 12 months were more susceptible to seed coat darkening, but purging with N₂ effectively reduced the darkening. It can be concluded that CA storage conditions affect the phenolic compounds and other chemicals, which in turn affects the color of the grains.

Hermetic Storage Since storage insects are aerobic organisms, they require oxygen for their survival. In case of altered atmospheric gas compositions containing low O₂ or high CO₂, their metabolic rate changes. At lower grain moisture content and the corresponding intergranular humidity, insects suffer higher mortality, due to the desiccation caused by low O₂ or elevated CO₂ concentrations (Murdock et al. 2012). This concept of grain preservation has been known to humankind for centuries as underground pits were used for safekeeping of grains (Hill et al. 1983). The *kaccha kothis* or underground pits which keep the grain cooler and have low O₂ atmosphere (Girish 1980) are still used to store grains in villages of tropical countries like India. To achieve insect control, the temperature of the grain should be above 21 °C. Hermetic storage is based on the principle of the development of an oxygen-depleted, carbon dioxide-enriched atmosphere caused by the respiration of the living organisms in the ecology of a sealed storage system (Navarro 2012). Heat of respiration generated by a wet commodity under storage may be high enough to destroy both the stored product and the resident organisms. By blocking the supply of oxygen interdicts the main supply of water for the pests, forcing the insect to shift to anaerobic metabolism. Eventually, this results in accumulation of acids and lactates in the insect body, leading to inactivity, cessation of population growth, desiccation, and eventual death (Maekawa and Elert 2003; Murdock et al. 2012). An O₂ ingress rate of 0.05 %/day is sufficient to arrest the theoretical weight loss at a level of 0.018 % over a 1 year storage period. At this ingress rate, the possibility of a residual surviving insect population is eliminated. This low O₂ ingress level could serve as a guideline for the sealing specifications of structures appropriate to the hermetic storage method (Navarro 2012). Seck et al. (1996) have observed a decline

of O₂ level from 19.2 to 2.3 % and rise of CO₂ from 1.2 to 22.8 % during hermetic storage of cowpea which resulted in increased *C. maculatus* adult mortality and 60–80 % reduction in F1 progeny. Recently, there has been a growing interest in the use of hermetically sealed containers to control grain pests in Argentina; East, North, and Central Africa; India; and the USA (Dunkel 1995; Girish 1980). Hermetic storage can be (i) aboveground rigid structures, (ii) aboveground flexible structures, (iii) underground flexible structures, and (iv) aboveground rigid structures. Aboveground rigid structures like bins and silos, made up of concrete and metal, are used worldwide. Metal silos, also hermetically sealed but physically stronger, have been heavily promoted all over the world, despite being relatively expensive (Kimenju and De Groote 2010), especially compared to the super grain bags. Aboveground flexible structures like flexible plastic liners with or without support by wire frames have been developed in the UK and Canada for bulk grain storage. Low oxygen concentration causes insect mortality, so hermetic storage such as the Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage, super grain bags, cocoons, and other systems are being promoted as cheap and effective ways to control storage insect pests in the Asia and Africa. Bags, consisting of a double layer of high-density polyethylene (HDPE), within the standard polypropylene woven bags, were shown to effectively protect cowpeas against bruchid beetles. Super grain bags consist of a single high-density polyethylene bag used as a liner in the standard polypropylene bags and have been successfully disseminated in Asia (De Groote et al. 2013). Sanon et al. (2011) demonstrated that using three-layered high-density polyethylene bags for storage of cowpea prevented infestation of cowpea beetle. Baoua et al. (2012b) used Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS) bags that are composed of two inner liners of HDPE 80 µm thick enclosed by a woven polyethylene or nylon outer sack for controlling cowpea bruchids. PICS bags and GrainPro SuperGrain bags performed equally well in depleting the O₂ level up to 1–3 % and preventing insect growth (Baoua et al. 2013a). The effectiveness of PICS in controlling *C. maculatus* in green gram and pigeon pea during 6 months of storage period in Kenya was also reported by Mutungi et al. (2014). Surveys conducted at various countries in Africa reveal that PICS are very effective in controlling pulse bruchids (Ibro et al. 2014; Moussa et al. 2014; Murdock and Baoua 2014). The bags have been adopted by small-scale holders and in the domestic level. Since the PICS bag looks promising and is economical (Vales et al. 2014) as compared to gunny bags, similar bags providing hermetic storage conditions can also be adopted by various tropical countries, relying on the bag storage system. García-Lara et al. (2013) used multilayer SGB-IV-R coextruded hermetic bag, having ultralow oxygen permeability (<4 cc/m²/day) for successfully controlling insects. These bags created hermetic conditions due to depletion of O₂ from 21 to 5 %, which resulted in 100 % mortality of

C. maculatus in 4 weeks. Though this bag could be destroyed by *P. truncatus* and *R. dominica*, it still was effective for controlling *C. maculatus* and, hence, can be utilized for storing pulses without adversely affecting the germination rate (Baoua et al. 2013b).

Underground rigid structures made up of concrete and lined with polyethylene are used in many Asian and African countries. This structure very well takes care of the moisture migration into the stored grains, in the tropical countries. Underground pits lined with polyethylene serving as underground flexible structures are also practiced in the subtropics (Navarro et al. 1994), but in tropical climates, moisture migration is an issue in this type of structures, which has to be handled carefully. The effectiveness of CO₂ retention could be improved for the underground concrete double-walled structure with bitumen and PVC lining sandwiched between them, when the cracks in the walls are sealed and coated with araldite epoxy resins (Kamel et al. 1980). The bulk storage of grains on concrete platform with low wall, covered with PVC and lined with polyethylene on the bottom, has been found to be successful for long-term storage, in the Mediterranean conditions (Varnava et al. 1995). The seed viability in hermetic storage largely depends on moisture content which has been observed for green gram by Hong and Ellis (1992). They have claimed in their report that the loss of viability in green gram was more rapid at –20 °C than at warmer temperatures for a moisture content of 4.3 % (wb). If the grain moisture level is high, then there is a possibility of fermentation and development of off-flavor in the stored grains. Therefore, the grains should be suitably dried before subjected to hermetic storage.

Low Pressure Storage Insect-resistant properties of seeds can be integrated with physical control measures such as low storage pressure to reduce postharvest insect infestation. Creating low oxygen atmospheres through the exhaustion of air to achieve low pressure is effective in the control of postharvest insect pests including *C. maculatus* (Mbata et al. 2004, 2005a, 2009; Mbata and Phillips 2001). Different life stages of *C. maculatus* required exposure periods between 28 and 153 h at a pressure of 32.5 mmHg and temperatures of 20–35 °C to achieve 99 % mortality (Mbata et al. 2004, 2005a). The egg and the pupae were the most tolerant stages to low pressure while the larva was the most susceptible stage. Mbata et al. (2009) had observed that low pressure (32.5±0.5 mmHg) creates a low oxygen-controlled atmosphere that can kill all developmental stages of *C. maculatus* (F.) on different varieties of cowpea even at 30 °C. Their study revealed that with the exception of eggs, exposure periods required to achieve 99 % mortality varied with life stage and variety of cowpea. The larval stage was the most susceptible and required relatively shorter exposure periods to low pressure when reared on *C. maculatus*-resistant varieties as

compared to susceptible varieties. The time period to achieve 99 % mortality in a low pressure environment for eggs and pupae ranged between 116 and 133.9 h and between 71.6 and 98.6 h, respectively, for different varieties of cowpea. Mbata et al. (2009) recommended the integration of low pressure applications with storage of cowpea varieties resistant to *C. maculatus* as an alternative pest management tool to fumigants.

Biological Control

Live or dead insects are not at all acceptable in products. In many countries especially in developed and developing countries, the buying power of the consumer is increasing and consumers are demanding safe products. For years, the efficacy of disinfestations was directed to the control of pests only; however, growing public awareness of product quality and environmental issues has encouraged the scientists to develop alternative insect control measures. Chemical pesticides are being phased out and novel biological methods are being developed, which can be adopted in integrated pest management practice to prevent insect damage of the grains. Biological control could be through the use of biotechnological intervention or using parasitoids or predator for the destruction of insects and/or prevention of insect infestation (Schöller et al. 1997).

Parasitoids and Predators

Depending on their nutritional ecology, parasitoids and predators are either generalists or specialists. Generalists prey on a variety of species which are biosystematically not closely related to one other. Predators kill their prey immediately and are mostly generalists (Schöller et al. 1997). Wasps and fungi are biological vectors released into grain storage facilities to control pulse beetles. These parasitoids feed on or infect the damage-causing insects. Several works on the use of biological control for insects of different grains had been published, a very few of which mentioned the control of pulse bruchids through these biological agents (Lecato et al. 1977; Haines 1984; Islam et al. 1985; Verma 1990; van Huis 1991; Monge and Huignard 1991; Schmale et al. 2003, 2006; Campan and Benrey 2004; Sood and Pajni 2006; Rojas-Rousse et al. 2007; Velten et al. 2007a, 2008). *Dinarmus basalis*, a larva-pupae eating wasp, had been employed to control *A. obtectus* (Schmale et al. 2003; Velten et al. 2007a, 2008), *C. maculatus* (Sanon et al. 2002), *C. chinensis* (Islam and Kabir 1995), and *Z. subfasciatus* (Schmale et al. 2003). In a similar study, a specialist parasitoid *Stenocorse bruchivora* was used to control bruchids (Campan and Benrey 2004). *Pteromalus cerealellae* has been used to control *C. maculatus* (Mbata et al. 2005b). Fungi, i.e., *Vuillemin* and *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Metschnikoff), were introduced into stored pulse to

control *C. maculatus* (Cherry et al. 2005). However, the control of these biological agents and their probable effect on the ecosystem has not been reported extensively. Hence, the use of biological control is still to be recommended as a pest control measure.

Semiochemicals

Pheromones are secreted or excreted from the insects to affect the social behavior of the insects (Qi and Burkholder 1981; Shu et al. 1996). These compounds are used as attractants in traps for detecting and monitoring pests in storage facilities (Angerilli et al. 1998). Direct control of storage pests with pheromones can be approached with the attracticide and mating disruption methods (Tanaka et al. 1981). Both techniques utilize synthetic female sex pheromones to prevent males from reproducing (Burkholder 1981; Cork et al. 1991; Phillips et al. 1996). Semiochemicals, used to manipulate female behavior, may provide new tools for many different pest management approaches (Nazzi et al. 2008). Pheromones, which are also responsible for male aggression behavior, can be used effectively in controlling the mating and population growth of insects (Phillips 1997). These pheromones may be available for use to manipulate the behavior of beneficial natural enemies of storage pests (Burkholder and Ma 1985). With proper knowledge of bruchid pheromones, pest control measures can gain a new insight and focus on developing a new trapping system for insects in stored pulses. Pheromones from a parasitoid *P. cerealellae* have inhibiting effect on cowpea weevil growth (Onagbola and Fadamiro 2011). Nazzi et al. (2008) in their study found that the female dry bean beetle preferred the odor of clean beans to that of beans where conspecifics had developed; an ether extract of such beans was repellent to the insect. A reduced receptivity to mating was observed in *C. chinensis* and *C. maculatus*, by the injection of octopamine and tyramine, respectively (Yamane and Miyatake 2010).

Biological control of grains is still limited to research only. It has to pass through various hurdles before being commercialized. It is still out of sufficient control of consequences; hence, sufficient research is needed prior to adopting this practice as an IPM measure.

Biotechnological Interventions

It is observed that plant proteins such as lectins, albumins, vicilins, and arcelin, which are naturally present in some of the pulse seeds, prevent the attack of various insects due to the chitin-binding properties (Macedo et al. 1993; Sales et al. 2000, 2001; Louis et al. 2004, 2007; Moura et al. 2007; Velten et al. 2007b; Uchôa et al. 2009). These lectins, which are multivalent, have the ability to agglutinate cells (Carlini and Grossi-de-Sá 2002; Janarthanan et al. 2012) and are also vector specific; for example, the lectin found in African yam

bean seed can resist cowpea weevil, but it is not effective against legume pod borer (Machuka et al. 2000). This suggests that choosing a suitable plant breeding program by cultivating the insect-resistant varieties (Appleby and Credland 2004) or incorporating these insect-resistant peptides in the plant DNA (Popelka et al. 2004), or screening the insect-resistant varieties, can very well take care of the future infestation issues and provide food security.

Conclusions

Different disinfestation methods have been in practice for centuries and some of these are still relevant today. In the early 1990s, with the advent of chemical pesticides, the world agricultural scenario has undergone a great change. It may be concluded that the range of safe fumigant chemicals that can be used is now restricted to phosphine. The chemicals now must be judiciously applied in airtight containers to prevent insects developing resistance to it. Carbon dioxide fumigation is effective, but the exorbitant cost of production and application debar many farmers and dealers to use it as a fumigant; however, producing CO₂ from burning of biomass like cow dung can be adopted by small-scale farmers. Moreover, biogas generated from biomass containing methane can also be an alternative means of fumigation in tropical as well as temperate climates. The bottling and distribution of biogas at the farm level is still a challenge. Fumigation must be conducted in sealed chambers, i.e., bins and silos or in a bagged structure, properly insulated with plastic covers.

Vegetable oils both edible and nonedible, when coated on the pulses, prohibit insects from laying eggs and adult insects from emergence. Some of these oils do have insecticidal properties which have been used worldwide at the domestic or small-scale level. These oils do not interfere with the germination quality of the seeds and, hence, can be adopted in commercial scale storage of different pulses for both bagged and bin storage of temperate and tropical climate. There is growing interest in using the plant extract or plant leaf powders directly or as fumigant instead of using chemicals, as a measure for biosafety; however, with caution. Sunning is still an effective and cheap method of disinfestation, which has been in practice since centuries; however, this method is weather and season dependent. Many of the physical methods such as the use of irradiation and dielectric heating take only a few minutes to disinfest the grains. Despite their high infrastructural cost, some of them are practiced commercially; however, proper safety measures are to be taken. The disinfested grains must be immediately packed in a suitable packaging material to avoid future infestation. Modifying the storage atmosphere by creating low oxygen and high carbon dioxide and flushing the storage containers

with nitrogen also impacts insect growth rate. Since in tropical climates grains are stored in bags, hermetic storage with low (2–5 %) O₂ and high CO₂ (18–20 %) environment will be an economical and feasible option, whereas in temperate climates, where grains are stored in bulk, aeration and cooling will be a more viable option. Some of the simple technologies such as sieving, storing in hermetically sealed bags, and storing grains with sand layer, inert dusts, vegetable oil, and plant extracts can be adopted domestically ensuring proper hygiene, to reduce the damage caused by insects. The efficacy of pest control measure no longer emphasizes only on the lethality of insects, it now focuses on the worker, consumer, and environmental safety. Some of these methods such as dielectric heating, ionizing radiation, and ozone treatment cause minimum environmental problems and deliver hygienic product. Therefore, despite the high initial cost, industries and consumers are beginning to prefer them over the chemically treated food items.

An integrated pest management practice is the key to food sustainability and safety. Choosing the suitable plant breeding program and screening the insect-resistant varieties will not only increase the yield but also safeguard the stored pulses from the attack of storage insects. It is said that a grain saved is a grain produced. Drying the harvested grains to safe storage moisture content, aeration, and cooling, followed by suitable packaging in sanitized insect proof container, can prevent grain loss to a large extent.

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