Lesson # 12

Title: Pesticide Storage

Purposes / Objectives:

To understand why proper storage is important.
To learn about methods for storing pesticides safely.

Overview:

Participants are asked to discuss storage problems and suggest proper storage methods: buildings or containers, locations, and techniques.

Introduction / Discussion:

Mixing and preparing pesticides often take place in the field. Therefore, pesticides are often kept close by. In a typical village, pesticides may -- or may not -- be secured and protected. When they are not in a safe, secured location, pesticides may endanger human health, the environment, food or feed, and other products.

The same is true for pesticides stored in and around the home.

Pesticides need to be stored safely so they do not endanger humans or the environment, including food, feed for livestock, nontarget vegetation, crops, livestock, wildlife, pollinating/beneficial insects, or water supplies.

Materials:

1. blackboard
2. chalk
3. examples of storage containers or boxes

Advance Planning:
Bring a locked box or some other suitable storage container.

Instruction Outline / Methods:

1. **Introduction:**
   Introductions, pre-lesson comments, explain what the group will discuss, and why.

2. **Activity:**
   Everyone participates. Ask farmers to tell where they store their pesticides. List their responses on a chalkboard. Ask the group to discuss the good and the bad points of each site. Alternatively, view storage places, and comments on proper and improper storage practices.

3. **Discussion and Problem-Solving:**
   Ask the farmers: If you were in charge of setting up or building a pesticide storage area, what would be your “top five” considerations?
   What can you build or use to keep your pesticides—and your children, animals, and neighbors—safe?
   Make a list of the features a good, safe storage area should have:
   - Locked or secure
   - Well-ventilated
   - Well-lit
   - Dry (protected from rains and floods)
   - Protected from extreme heat
   - Large enough to allow pesticides to be separated by type: Insecticides and Fungicides can be together, but should be stored away from Herbicides (to prevent cross-contamination)
   - Shelves or pallets—to use space efficiently, and to keep containers off of the floor
   - Away from feed/seed
   - Enclosed—so spills or leaking containers won’t escape or cause too much harm
   Discuss why each feature is important.
   Discuss what can be done in a village to improve storage practices.

4. **Review and Conclusion:**
   Allow time for questions concerning pesticide storage.
   Conclude with alternative methods/minimization tactics to avoid the need for having large supplies of pesticides in storage, such as obtaining only amount needed for the season.
Notes: