

Corn Silo



Corn silos provide long-term storage for corn now shelled and ready for grinding and used primarily on the tortilla.

CTI-FOTECAP is using a design prepared by Post-Cosecha, an element of the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture funded by the Swiss Government.

In rural Guatemala tinsmiths are found in many communities. About ten have been successfully trained to fabricate the silos, thus advancing their small businesses as well as providing storage services to families.

Most silos are the size of hot water heaters in many US households. They come in various sizes but most hold 18 quintals, or 1,800 pounds, of shelled kernels. They also require a chemical to prevent degradation of the crop in storage.

The silos permit small growers to keep safely their crop for consumption by their families, and for occasional sales to small companies or neighbors in non-harvest periods of the year.

Silos cost about \$60. They are usually purchased through Bancrysoles, women's micro-lending organizations assisted by Fundacion Crysol, CTI's Guatemalan partner in FOTECAP. Field reports indicate that a participating family can pay back its investment in the silo in about five to six months through savings realized through conservation of crop.