

XIII. STORAGE OF TEST SAMPLES

All seed testing laboratories should have ample space and facilities to provide favourable storage conditions for the test samples.

The Rules and Regulations under the Central Seed Act would need to indicate the length of time official samples and samples moving in interstate commerce should be held in storage after testing. As a guide, where the seed lot is completely disposed of, the seed samples representing a lot may be discarded within 12 months after the last test. Samples known to represent seed lots about which there is a dispute should be retained until the matter is settled.

Seed samples which are meant for future record and reference should be large enough to do a purity analysis and be packed in good quality paper bags or cloth bags of uniform shape and size. These packets, or bags, are given the test numbers as registered in the entry book in order to immediately locate a sample if needed. A small envelope holding the weed seed, inert matter and other crop seed from the initial purity analysis should be placed inside the packet holding the unanalyzed stored sample. Keeping of these

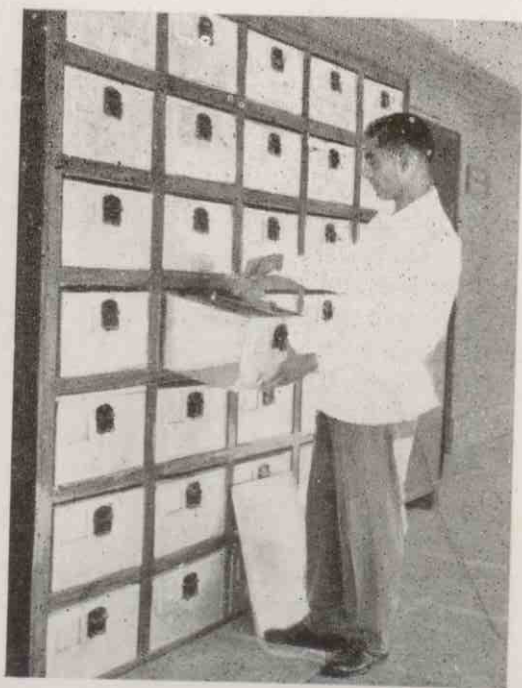


FIG. 109—Seed storage rack and boxes for keeping reserve samples of seed lots tested.

fractions serves as a check on the analysis reported in the event of questions.

Any sample that is stored may need to be tested for germination at some future date. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to store the samples under favourable environmental conditions. Poor conditions like high humidity or high temperature may cause the rapid deterioration of viability of seeds. It is, therefore, recommended that the samples should be stored under a cool, dry environment to eliminate the loss of viability and also reduce the chances of insect infestation.

The samples should be stored in insect and rat proof cabinets or containers. (Figure 109) It is advisable to dust the cabinets and containers with suitable insecticides and fumigate the storage room to avoid infestation of samples by insects.