

Raised Granary

A Community-Based Good Practice for Flood-Resilient Grain Storage in Assam

Introduction: In the flood-prone landscapes of Assam, where annual inundations can pose threats to livelihoods and food security, the Raised granary emerges as a traditional yet effective community-based good practice. This raised granary, designed to safeguard stored grains during floods, reflects the resourcefulness and resilience of communities in adapting to their challenging environment.

Background: Assam's frequent floods can devastate crops and lead to the loss of stored grains, exposing the food security of affected communities. The Raised granary, a raised granary, has been a longstanding cultural and practical response to this challenge, providing a means for communities to protect their harvested grains from floodwaters.

Community-Based Good Practices: Raised granary is a granary built on elevated platforms or stilts, often constructed using indigenous materials like bamboo and thatch. This community-driven practice draws upon local knowledge and traditions, reflecting a sustainable and adaptive solution to the recurring threat of floods in Assam.



Key Components of Raised granary:

- **Elevated Construction:** The granary is built on raised platforms to elevate the stored grains above anticipated flood levels. This elevation protects the grains from direct contact with floodwaters, preventing spoilage and ensuring food security for the community.
- **Bamboo and Thatch Materials:** Raised granary are typically constructed using bamboo for the framework and thatch for the walls and roofing. These locally available materials make the granary construction affordable, sustainable, and well-adapted to the flood-prone environment.
- **Community Involvement:** The construction, maintenance, and management of Raised granary involve active participation from the community. This collaborative effort not only ensures the granaries are well-suited to local conditions but also establish a sense of collective responsibility.
- **Adaptation to Flood Cycles:** Raised granary are designed to withstand the cyclical nature of floods in Assam. The raised structure adapts to the rise and fall of water levels, allowing communities to safeguard their grains during flood events.

Benefits of Raised granary:

- **Preservation of Harvested Grains:** The elevated design of Raised granary protects stored grains from water damage, preventing spoilage and ensuring a stable food supply for the community.
- **Community Resilience:** By safeguarding essential food resources, Raised granary contribute to the overall resilience of communities, helping them recover more quickly after flood events.
- **Cultural Heritage Preservation:** The construction and use of Raised granary contribute to the preservation of local cultural practices and traditions, passing down valuable knowledge from generation to generation.
- **Sustainable Storage Solution:** Raised granary offer a sustainable and eco-friendly solution to the challenge of grain storage in flood-prone areas. The use of locally sourced materials aligns with the principles of environmental sustainability.

Conclusion: Raised granary stands as a symbol of community ingenuity and adaptation in the face of annual floods in Assam. This community-based good practice not only ensures the preservation of harvested grains but also fosters a sense of collective responsibility and cultural preservation. As climate change impacts intensify, initiatives like Raised Granary exemplify the importance of leveraging traditional knowledge and community cooperation to build resilient solutions to the unique challenges faced by flood-prone regions in Assam.

Field area of North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS) : Jopong Village, Jhanji Mukh , Jorhat District, Assam, India. Visit date :06/01/2025 and visited

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Thoughts by Surojit Sarmah: I feel that we have many indigenous practices among different communities that need to be promoted. One such example is the **Raised Granary**, which is a good practice that can be adopted by various communities. We should encourage communities by providing them a platform to share their practices. It is also our duty to bring these good practices to the world so that we can all learn from each other, benefiting the larger public.