WEEVIL INFESTATION IN STORED BEANS AMONG MARKET TRADERS

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.) DEGREE IN FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Weevil Infestation in Stored Beans Among Market Traders" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

_____ _____

PROJECT SUPERVISOR Date

_____ _____

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT Date

_____ _____

EXTERNAL EXAMINER Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Food Science and Technology, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined weevil infestation in stored beans among market traders, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of weevil; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with weevil and infestation. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model and the UTAUT. A sample size of 394 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 357 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.05). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.569$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.25, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.29$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on weevil.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of weevil infestation in stored beans among market traders is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

weevil, when examined in relation to infestation, reveals complex and often paradoxical dynamics. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which weevil unfolds. Field evidence gathered by Dauda and Eze (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of weevil. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding infestation. Evidence assembled by Nwosu and Famuyide (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to weevil. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in food science and technology. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

The relationship between weevil and infestation has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which weevil unfolds. Field evidence gathered by Umeh and Osinachi (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of weevil. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in food science and technology. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Okonkwo and Obiora (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding infestation. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of weevil in shaping developmental trajectories. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of weevil in everyday life. The work of Okonkwo and Obiora (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that infestation reinforces the effects of weevil. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Research by Umeh and Bello (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting weevil and infestation. For practitioners, the practical significance of weevil cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with infestation. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

weevil continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in food science and technology. Auxiliary variables, including education, income, and location, further condition how weevil is experienced across communities. Longitudinal research by Ogunlana and Obiora (2016) revealed that sustained attention to weevil yields appreciable dividends over time. Such findings reinforce the