INTRODUCTION
One of the major problems that affects maize quality is insect infestation of the stored products. Methyl bromide, a chemical pesticide, is perceived as being ozone depleting (Bell, 2000). Environmental and health hazards associated with chemical pesticides have lead to an interest in the possible use of microwave energy as a non-chemical insect control measure (Nelson, 1996).

AIM
• To determine microwave treatment conditions that can eradicate the most common insect pests in stored-grain products; and
• To determine the effect of microwave energy on maize kernel quality.

EXPERIMENTAL

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
• 51 microwave treatments investigated;
• Selected treatments effective in eradicating all insect stages without kernel damage; and
• Development of hot spots, swelling and discolouration to kernels observed in other treatments.

CONCLUSION
Microwave technology has the potential to be applied as a grain insect infestation control measure.

REFERENCES