Abstract
In recent years, research on the field of ancient Egyptian economy in its earliest historical forms has grown quickly. Despite previous efforts in the last decades, the nature of the ancient Egyptian economic system has not yet been satisfactorily defined.

Ancient Egypt had, like the majority of preindustrial societies, a pre-eminently agrarian economy. Amongst the agricultural products acquired from the Egyptian land, cereals stood out due to their economic significance. Grain and cereal-based products, such as bread and beer, were used as a medium of exchange and a basis for wages. The aforementioned importance of cereals must have made their management and storage a matter of priority. The storage of food staples is always of utmost importance as it is a key component of food distribution, which is an important means of executing power and accomplishing the goals by specific actors in a system (Paulette 2013: 106).

Despite the significance of grain storage for the understanding of socio-economic and power relations in a given society, no comprehensive macro-study on grain storage in ancient Egypt has been undertaken. Thus, the main goal of this work is to obtain a new multi-faceted picture of grain storage in ancient Egypt. More precisely, the study focuses on an extensive historical span between the Third and the Thirteenth Dynasties (2600-1650 BC). Such a broad target should enable us to better observe long-term trends in the economy and, consequently, to evaluate more properly the changing practice of grain storage, which constituted a key element in the context of socio-economic and political transformations.

The new conception on grain storage is achieved in several steps. First, a typology of storage structures/institutions was created, mainly on the basis of accessible archaeological, iconographic, and written evidence. This typology of storage installations has been complemented with an overview of cereal species and products stored in them. Second, distribution patterns of storage facilities previously defined were examined in order to understand the socio-economic and political developments that took part in that millennium of changes. More specifically, the acquired distribution patterns are compared with prerequisites and assumptions of the Patrimonial Household Model.

Keywords: Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, First Intermediate Period, cereals, storage, magazines, silos, granaries, economy, administration, socio-economic structure, iconography, archaeology, Patrimonial Household Model.