Planting Maize, Beans and Soya beans for the Modern Farmer

Investment in Developing Export Agriculture (IDEA) Project

An informed farmer knows how to improve his income by using proper methods of planting, crop management, harvesting and storage

1. What seed should I buy and why?

Buy improved seed and the reason for this is

- Improved seed has high germination
  More than 9 out of 10 seeds planted germinate (90-100%) germination

- Improved seed is resistant to disease
  Maize can get streak virus. This disease causes yellow stripes on the leaves. LONGE 1 maize improved seed resists this disease
- Improved seeds give higher yield
  For example, NAM II improved soybeans yield 20% more than unimproved Soya beans, LONGE 1 improved maize yields 80% more than unimproved maize, K131 beans yield 100% more than traditional bean varieties and K132 improved beans yield 60% more than the traditional bean varieties.

  Note that Longe 1, K131, K132 and NAM II seeds will become like traditional seeds after many seasons of planting.

  To keep the benefits of improved seed, replace Longe 1 maize after three seasons of planting and replace K131, K132 and NAM II after two seasons.

  Hybrids give a better yield BUT MUST be replaced after only one season
  NEVER REPLANT HYBRID SEEDS!

  REMEMBER – NAM II, K131, K132 ARE NOT HYBRIF SEEDS

2. How much improved seed do you need?

- Longe 1 – you need – 10Kg per acre or 25Kg per hectare
- K131 and Soya beans – you need – 25Kg per acre or 60Kg per hectare
- K132 beans you need 40Kg per acre or 100Kg per hectare

Buy seed early before planting season when there is still money!

3. Why rotate crops

Some insects only attack beans and other attack maize. Rotate crops to confuse insect pests. Do not plant beans or soybeans or other crops two successive seasons in the same plot. Do not plant crops like maize, millet, and sorghum after each other for three seasons in a row

4. How should I plant?

- Plant and space soybeans 60Cm between rows and 10cmbetween the plants in a row.
- Plant beans in a row spacing them 60Cm between rows and 10Cm between the plants in a row. Plant maize in a row spacing them 95Cm between rows and 60Cm between the plants in a row
- Dig holes in rows, 5cm deep. If you are using DAP fertilizer, dig holes 10cm deep and plant at 5cm depth.
- Dig soil 10cm deep, break clumps for fine seed bed especially for soybeans
- Keep crops weed free for the first 4 weeks to increase yield.

5. Why use fertilizer?

All crops need a plant food called phosphates in the soil. Every crop uses phosphates as it grows. After many harvests the fields become infertile. A good farmer puts phosphates back into the soil with cow dung; compost or fertilizers high in phosphates like DAP.

Use cow dung at 600Kg per acre or 1.5MT per hectare
Use DAP fertilizer at 40Kg /acre or 100Kg/Ha.

Adding phosphates will increase the size of your harvest. Using both DAP and improved seed can triple your harvest. TRY THIS AND SEE THE DIFFERENCE!

6. How to fertilize

Dig a hole 10cm deep, at the bottom add DAP, then cover it with 5cm of soil put plant your seed and cover with 5cm of soil.

If you have any questions about planting ask your agricultural extension officer. Always seek for advise before buying seeds and after buying seek for advise on how to plant and manage your crops well.