WEEK 8: CONTINUOUS PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

The farmer should monitor the field to ensure quick action is taken in case of break out of pests and diseases. Then one should spray with pesticides/ fungicides depending on pest and disease infestation.



WEEK 10-16: HARVESTING

Hand pick and collect healthy mature fruits that have turned brick red in color.



Growing SOLANUM AETHIOPICUM *(Nakati)* for Commercial seed production





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WEEK 17-20: PROCESSING AND STORAGE



Step 1: Place the harvested seed under the shade on a clean surface like a turpauline or mat.



Step 2: Put the fruits in a mortar and lightly crush them using a pestle. Remove the stalk before crushing.



Step 3: Place the crushed fruit and seeds in an open plastic container. Fill the container with water and stir to allow the pieces of fruit flesh and gel to float.



Step 4: Gently remove the floating fruit flesh skin and tilt the container to allow more floating seed to pour out. Quality seeds will remain at the bottom. Repeat the washing several times with fresh water until all the flesh and gel are completely removed.



Step 5: Wrap the washed seeds in a cotton cloth/net and hang in the shade for about 24 hours to remove excess water.



Step 6: Place the partially dried seeds on a clean flat surface like a tarpauline which is raised off the ground under little sunlight (not in direct sunlight). Loosen any clump of seeds and stir 2 to 3 times per day so that seeds dry uniformly.



Step 7: Store clean seed on a raised surface in a cool, dry and well ventilated place.

Nakati (*Solanum aethiopicum*) is one of the most important local vegetable species in Uganda and is most popular within the Central region. It is grown by both small scale and commercial farmers who usually hand pick the mature fruits.

WEEK 1: LAND PREPARATION

Remove all perennial weeds and any other obstacles from your field. The result should be a field that is ready for ploughing or use spraying of herbicides to kill the weeds i.e Glyphosate, Weedmaster, or Roundup.

Do not burn the bushes because burning exposes the soil to erosion and also causes loss of soil nutrients.





WEEK 2: FIRST PLOUGHING

This is done before the onset of rains to turn plant material into organic manure while also breaking the soil to allow more water to infiltrate. This process also increases the amount of air available in the soil.





Depending on the resources available, the farmer can use a hand hoe, an ox plough or a tractor with a plough.

NB: A germination test should be carried out during this period to ensure that seeds are capable of germinating. It should also be of high germination percentage-not less than 85% in 2 weeks. Contact agro-dealers and seed producers for quality seed.

WEEK 3: SECOND PLOUGHING AND HARROWING



Harrowing helps in achieving a finer tilth.

Remove any trash and other obstacles which can hinder seed germination.

WEEK 4-5: FERTILIZER APPLICATION, PLANTING AND SPACING

Farmers are encouraged to apply organic fertilizer to improve the soil fertility. This will result in higher yields.

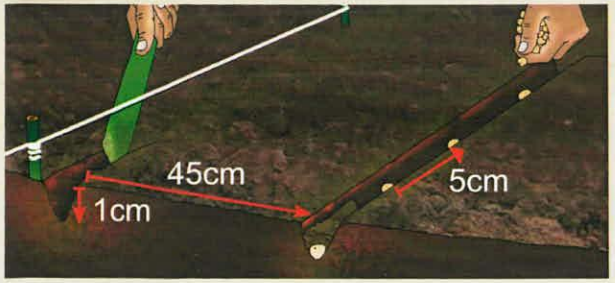
- Mix seed with soil/manure in a ratio of 1:4 (1 quantity of seed to 4 quantities of soil/manure) before planting to avoid congestion and seed wastage.





Inorganic fertilizers e.g UREA, NPK can also be used but only after advice from your agriculture extension worker or agro dealer.

Planting in lines:



- Use a string to make rows in your field. Spacing between rows should be 45cm x 5cm plant to plant.
- Use a stick to make a 1cm deep farrow following the string. Apply manure in the farrow then plant the seed and cover with light soil.

WEEK 7: TIMELY WEEDING

Weeding should be done as soon as weeds emerge and especially before the flowering of weeds. This will reduce the spreading of the weeds and minimizes competition for nutrients and light between nakati plants and weeds. It also reduces pest and disease infestation at the early stages.



Thinning:

Off-types or relatives and diseased plants are also removed. The thinned plants can be sold or consumed at home.