Site selection
• Select a field that did not have a legume crop (e.g. beans) in the previous season.
• Avoid waterlogged soils as seeds can rot.
• Avoid steep slopes as rains can wash away fertilizer and seeds.

Land preparation
• Cut down vegetation on the site as necessary.
• Plough-in weeds and crop residues 1 month before the rains.
• Do a second ploughing just before planting to break up large lumps of soil.

NOTE: a well prepared field makes it easier to plant. The roots grow easily and the plants are healthier.

Variety choice
• Use certified seed of the improved variety recommended for your area OR use seed saved from the previous crop for a maximum of 2 seasons and then buy new certified seed.
• When using saved seed, ensure that seed is free from insect damage, disease and weed seeds.
• Larger seeds give better yields.

NOTE: Do not use saved seed for more than 2 seasons or seed from diseased crops.
Germination test

**Done at least 10 days before the start of the rains**

- Plant 50 seeds in a well-prepared seedbed.
- Water the seedbed before planting, and every morning and evening after planting.
- Count emerging seedlings within 10 days after planting.
  - *If at least 43 seedlings come up, the seed is good for planting. If between 30 and 40 seedlings come up, use 4 seeds per hole at planting. If less than 30 seedlings come up, get new seed.*

Inoculation

- Inoculate seeds under a shade using the procedure recommended by the manufacturer. E.g. for *Biofix* use 100 g of the inoculant for every 10-15 kg seed.
- After inoculation, allow excess moisture to dry off the seed for 20-30 minutes under shade, then plant.

**NOTE:** Seed must be planted on the same day they are inoculated.

Planting and applying fertilizer

- Plant during the wet season - when the rains start.
- Mark planting holes 20 cm apart and 60 cm between lines. The hole should be 5 cm deep.
- Apply one soda/beer bottle top of DAP per hole (80-100 kg of DAP per hectare). If decomposed manure is available, apply a handful per hole. Cover fertilizer with 2 cm of soil.
- Place two seeds per hole and cover with soil.

Weeds, pests and disease control

- Uproot and destroy diseased plants and those that look different from the rest.
- If pests and diseases are present, seek advice on how to control.

Harvesting

- Harvest when most (at least 85%) pods are brown (like dried banana leaves) and most leaves have fallen off the plant.
- Harvest using a hand hoe or *panga* by cutting mature plants at ground level. Harvesting by hand pulling may remove the nutrients that soybean has added to the soil.
- Leave as much plant material as you can in the garden to improve soil fertility.

*To improve soil fertility, leave as much plant material as you can in the field*

Threshing & winnowing

- Thresh plants on tarpaulin by beating gently with a stick.
- Clean seed to remove chaff and foreign materials.
- Dry seed for 3-4 days to 13% or less moisture content. A soybean seed is sufficiently dry when it cracks between teeth.

Storage

- Store in clean bags placed on wooden pallets in a cool dry place.