



Double soybean yields

by producing quality soybean seeds

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.*



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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.

Working in partnership to create down-to-earth messages on integrated soil fertility management

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For more information, contact your extension officer or:
Joseph Mudiopu,
Millennium Villages,
P.O. Box 448, Mbarara, Uganda
Tel: +256 752 87 87 15
Email: jmudiopu@gmail.com

