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Get quality soybean seed

through good agricultural practices



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



Guidelines for Tanzania



1. Land preparation

- Select soil with moderate to high fertility.
- Plough in crop residues and vegetation to improve soil fertility.
- Break up large lumps of soil and level.
- Where soil is acidic, broadcast 5 bags (50 kg bags) of agricultural lime per acre and plough in.
- Test seed for germination before the start of the rainy season. Plant 30 seeds. If at least 25 germinate, then the seed is good to plant.
- Plant improved varieties. Use certified seed or seed from a crop grown from certified seed. Do not recycle seed for more than 3 seasons.
- Inoculate seeds under a shade and plant on the same day.
- Cover seeds with soil immediately to protect the inoculant from damage by the sun.

2. Planting

Plant at the start of the rainy season. Space furrows at 50 cm. Furrows should be 5 cm deep.

- Apply DAP or TSP fertilizer in the furrow at 50 kg per acre to supply phosphorus. Apply about one soda bottle top of fertilizer per metre (every 3 feet) along the furrow.
- Put in 2 seeds per stand along the furrow. Cover with top soil. The spacing from one stand to the next should be 10 cm.

If manure is available, make furrows slightly deeper, apply manure and fertilizer along the furrow, and mix with soil before placing seed.

3. Field management

- Thin to one plant per stand (10 cm) if more than one emerge.
- Weed on time. Do the first weeding 2 weeks after planting and the second at 5-6 weeks after planting.
- If growing for seed production, uproot diseased plants and plants that look different from the rest.
- Plant varieties that are resistant to diseases (e.g. *Uyole soya 1* and *Uyole soya 2*). Look out for pests like leaf rollers and leaf eaters.
- If rust is a problem, apply *Folicur* fungicide to soybean if not more than half of the leaves are brown.



4. Harvest

Timely harvesting is important to avoid shattering.

- Harvest when most of the pods are dry and brown in colour, and seeds in pods rattle when plants are shaken.
- Preferably, use a panga to cut the mature plants at ground level.
- Soybean roots left in the field add nutrients to the soil.

5. Post harvest

- Dry the harvested plants on tarpaulin in sunlight for 4 days before threshing, to a moisture content of 13% or less. Soybean grain is sufficiently dry when it cracks or breaks when bitten teeth.
- Pile soybean plants on a tarpaulin and hit gently against each other.
- Sort and winnow. Place seed in clean bags placed on wooden pallets in a cool, dry place.

Expected yield is 1.5 to 2 tonnes per hectare