1. Land preparation & seed selection

- Soon after harvesting, slash the weeds and plough them back into the soil. The weeds will rot and provide nutrients to the soil.
- Where maize is intercropped with pigeonpea, space maize at 90 cm apart along the ridge. Plant 3 seeds per station.
- Grow pigeonpea varieties that are medium duration, and maize varieties that are early to medium duration.
- Choose improved pigeonpea varieties such as Mwayi wathu alimi (ICEAP 00557) which tolerate Fusarium wilt.
- Plough in weeds or crop residues to provide organic matter to the soil.

2. Planting

- Where maize is intercropped with pigeonpea, space maize at 90 cm apart along the ridge. Plant 3 seeds per station.
- Plant pigeonpea mid-way between maize stations (45 cm away from the maize). Plant 3 seeds per station. Pigeonpea will be at 90 cm apart along the ridge.

To measure planting distances along the ridge, use a marked planting rope or use sticks of the required lengths. Distance can be estimated by using the hand of an adult. The distance between the thumb and middle finger is about 20 cm. Therefore 4½ measurements is about 90 cm.

- At planting or immediately after emergence, apply 1 level coke/fanta bottle top of NPK (23:21:0+4s) fertilizer (2 bags per hectare) to both maize and pigeonpea stations.
- Cover the seeds and fertilizer with soil, make sure the seeds does not touch the fertilizer.

Correct spacing gives both the maize and pigeonpea room to grow and makes weeding easier.

3. Management

- 1 week after planting check if germination has taken place; fill any gaps with new seed.
- The first weeding should be done 2 weeks after emergence of both the pigeonpea and maize.
- Top dress the maize with urea 3 weeks after emergence. Apply 1 full coke/fanta bottle top of urea 7-10 cm on either side of each maize station. Apply at a rate of 2 x 50 kg bags/ha.
- Second weeding should be done 6 weeks after emergence. Banking should only be done where there is no danger of termite damage.
- Scout for insect pests at flowering and podding. If pests are a serious problem to pigeonpea at flowering and podding, use insecticides if the costs will be recovered. Use recommended insecticides following to manufacturer's guidelines.

Medium maturing pigeon peas are more prone to attack by insect pests than long duration varieties.
This leaflet was produced by the National Smallholder Farmers’ Association of Malawi (NASFAM) in May 2014 for maize-pigeonpea farmers in Malawi. It is available on the website of the Africa Soil Health Consortium (ASHC) as creative commons material which can be reproduced and re-used without permission - provided NASFAM and ASHC are credited. The content was developed as a result of partnership between the NASFAM, The Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA) and ASHC.

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4. Harvesting and storage

Maize
• Harvest when cobs are dry.
• Separate cobs from husks during harvest.
• Dry and shell the cobs in the homestead. Dry grain further to reduce moisture content and winnow to remove chaff.
• Use Actellic Super dust, Super Guard or Shumba Super to control weevils.
• Place grain in clean bags, seal, and stack on a platform in a well ventilated area away from the floor.

Pigeonpea
• Harvest when almost all pods are brown.
• Dry pods further before threshing.
• Clean the grain to remove chaff, foreign material and shrivelled and rotten grains
• Apply Actellic Super to prevent weevils and place grain in clean bags. Store in a well ventilated area away from the floor.