



Grow better soybean

through good agricultural practices

5. Post harvest

- Dry the harvested plants in the sun on a mat, plastic sheet, tarpaulin, or on a raised platform.
- Thresh gently on a clean surface when the plants are dry.
- Dry the threshed grains, winnow and sort. Place seed in clean bags placed on wooden pallets in a cool, dry place.

6. Cooking soybean

- Put the dried grain in boiling water and cook for 20-30 minutes. This reduces anti-nutritional factors that interfere with absorption of nutrients. Then remove the skin and dry. Soybean develops a bad flavour if the cooking step is left out.
- Make soybean flour by grinding pre-boiled and dried grains. Mix soybean flour with cassava or maize meal to make bread or cakes.
- Grains can be roasted and eaten as snacks.
- The grains can also be used in a variety of dishes as relish.
- Soaked and pounded soybean can be used to make soy milk and tofu.



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



1. Land preparation

- Avoid waterlogged, or very sandy, gravelly soils.
- Clear all vegetation.
- Prepare the field manually with a hoe, or use animal power or a tractor.
- You can plant soybean on ridges or on a flat seedbed.
- Do not plant soybean in the same field for two succeeding seasons, as this increases the chance for disease.
- Test seed for germination 10 days before planting. Plant 50 seeds. If at least 40 germinate, then the seed is good to plant.
- Plant improved varieties.
- Inoculate seeds under a shade. Protect seed from direct sunlight by covering the container with paper, cloth or gunny bag and keep in the shade until planted.

2. Planting

Space furrows at 50 cm for early maturing varieties and 75 cm for late maturing varieties. Furrows should be 5 cm deep.

- Apply SSP, DAP or TSP fertilizer in the furrow 8cm away from the plant.
- Space seed 5 cm apart, one seed per hole.

Fertilizer type	Rate (kg/ha)	Row spacing: 50 cm In a furrow, apply 1		Row spacing: 75 cm In a furrow, apply 1	
		Teaspoon	Soda bottle-cap	Teaspoon	Soda bottle-cap
SSP	225	Every 40 cm	Every 30 cm	Every 30 cm	Every 20 cm
TSP, DAP	100	Every 100 cm	Every 60 cm	Every 65 cm	Every 45 cm

3. Field management

Manual weed control:

- Weed 2 weeks after planting and again 5-6 weeks after planting.
- If the plants grow well and the canopy closes early, second weeding is not needed.

Chemical weed control:

- Weed once at 5-6 weeks after planting if pre-emergence herbicide is applied at planting.
- If pests are damaging pods, control the pest with insecticides.



4. Harvest

Timely harvesting is important to avoid shattering.

- Harvest when most of the pods are dry and brown in colour.
- Do not harvest soybean by hand pulling because this may remove the roots that contain nitrogen and contribute to soil fertility.
- Instead, use a cutlass to cut the mature plants at ground level.
- Soybean roots left in the field add nutrients to the soil.

