

9



Dry the soybean plants in the sun - protect them from rain and animals. Preferably, dry on a mat, plastic sheet or tarpaulin, or on a raised platform.

Place the threshed grains on mats, plastic sheets or other clean surface until dry; protect from rain and animals. Test the grain to see if it is dry enough by biting - grain should break or crack, not bend or stick between your teeth.

10

For more information contact the Green Ef helpline

**Toll-free help line:
0800 200 300**

Partners

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Contact

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10 Steps to growing better soybean

If you have access to markets – soybean can be a good source of income. Growing soybean adds nitrogen to your soil – so will grow better maize next season.

1



Do not burn your fields – it destroys nutrients and important micro-organisms. Choose soil that will break down well to create a seedbed.

2



Plant in moist soil – when you are expecting a couple of weeks of moderate rain. Dry spells or heavy rain will destroy the seed. Timing is important - soybean need to mature in October when the conditions are right for drying.

3



Choose good, healthy looking seed -

Afayak and Jenguma are improved seeds suited to Northern Ghana. With good farming, these varieties will produce 800 kg to 1 tonne per acre.

4



Adding inoculant to your seed will increase your grain yield - and increase the nitrogen produced in the soil.

5



Whilst soybean can produce nitrogen - adding one soda cap of phosphorus, such as TSP fertilizer per length of your foot will work with the inoculant to give you a high yield. The fertilizer should not touch the seed.

6



Plant in rows - in holes 2-5 cm deep. Plant rows 60 cm apart (that is two feet) and in each row you should get 7-8 seeds planting in the length of your foot. Planted soybean is fragile so cover gently with soil.

Only use ridges if the soil is prone to water-logging and plant on both sides of the ridge.

7



Weeds will take light water and nutrients from the soybean and reduce your harvest - weeding is important by hand or the application of pesticides. First weed 2 weeks after planting, second weed 4 weeks after planting.

Remember weeds also encourage pests and diseases. Pre-emergence herbicide will give remove all weeds and give the soybean a good start.

8



Harvest when the pods are dry and have gone brown. Harvest early in the day to avoid pods shattering.

Cutting the bean - leaving the roots behind will increase the organic matter and nitrogen left in the soil for subsequent seasons.