



Series 8, Episode 5

Michael's Farm, Mwea, KENYA

This leaflet contains information on: rice, pest control, watermelons, dairy feeds

If undelivered, please return to The Mediae Company, PO Box 215-00502, Karen.

For more information, SMS "FERTILIZER" to 30606

Rice



Plant your rice in lines. This makes it easier and quicker to apply fertilizer and to harvest your crop.

You also save money on seeds. When you plant in lines, you only need 5kg per seed per acre. Otherwise, you would need 20kg.

Many farmers topdress their rice crop using the **broadcast** method. This is where you scatter fertilizer over your crop. Not all of the plants get fertilizer this way. Some plants are missed out. You also lose 35% of the fertilizer that you apply.

Fertilizer Deep Placement (FDP)

This is a different way of topdressing your crop. You can increase your yield by 18%.

The fertilizer is in the form of large **granules**. 1 granule feeds 4 crops.

A **FDP tool** places the fertilizer 7cm into the soil, close to the plant roots. The fertilizer breaks down slowly to feed your crop for a long time.



Topdressing with FDP

1. Place the fertilizer granules in the funnel.
2. Walk along the rows of rice. Every 4 plants, press the machine into the soil between the rows. The machine will put 1 granule of fertilizer into the soil. After putting in the first row, skip one row and apply again.
3. Only 4% of fertilizer is lost when doing **FDP**. Buy topdressing fertilizer for rice from **Mavuno**.



Pest Control

Rats

Rats eat everything, including clothing, bedding and wires. They make a mess and can spread diseases.

Kill rats with **Rat-Kill**.



Spread **Rat-Kill** pellets in areas where rats go. The rat will eat the pellets and die. The pellets dry the inside of the rat so that it does not smell when it is dead.

After 1 month, the rats will be gone.

WARNING: **Rat-Kill** is a poison. Keep away from animals and children.

Pit Latrines

Keep your pit latrine clean and hygienic to prevent diseases like cholera.

Bio-Pit contains live bacteria and enzymes. These break down the sludge. This makes the level of your latrine go down so that it does not fill up. There is less odour. If you use **Bio-Pit** properly, the sludge will dry out. You can then take out the sludge and use it to fertilise your garden.

Bio-Pit is safe to use. Your latrine must have soil sides (not cement) for **Bio-Pit** to work. Use **Bio-Pit** once per month to stop a build up of sludge.



How to use Bio-Pit



1. Mix 500g of **Bio-Pit** with 2L of warm water.



2. Leave to rest for 1 hour for the enzymes and bacteria to come to life.



3. Pour into the latrine.



4. Pour 10L of clean water into the latrine every day for the next 7 days.

Mosquitos

Mosquitos can carry diseases. **Mos-kill** is a spray that kills mosquitos and other insects, like cockroaches and flies. It is safe for humans and the environment.

To use:

Close doors and windows. Spray the room. Leave the room closed for a little while.

Mosquitos like to hide in dark places. Remember to spray under chairs, tables and beds, and on the ceiling where there are shadows. Also spray the pots of indoor plants.



Watermelons



Watermelons can be a profitable crop. They only take 80 days to mature, then 3 days to harvest. A field is harvested several times 2-3 days apart. You can get up to 20-25 tonnes per acre. There are 2 types of seed:

1. **Open Pollinated Seed (OPS)** is seed that is naturally pollinated in the field.
2. **Hybrid Seed** is seed that is produced in a controlled environment. This ensures good seed characteristics.

Open Pollinated Seed (OPS)

- Naturally pollinated in the field
- Low germination
- No disease tolerance
- Cheap to buy per kg
- Need 2 kg per acre

Hybrid Seed

- Pollinated in controlled conditions
- High germination
- Tolerant to some diseases
- More expensive to buy per kg
- Need ½ kg per acre

Maridadi F1



- Hybrid variety
- Yields 20-25 tonnes per acre
- Fruits are 8-12kg each
- Resistant to Fusarium Wilt
- Pack sizes from 25g to 1kg.

Hybrid seeds cost about 16,000/- per kg.

You need ½ kg per acre:
16,000 x ½ = **8000/-**

OPS seeds cost about 4,000/- per kg.

You need 2 kg per acre:
4,000 x 2 = **8,000/-**

Hybrid Seeds	OPV Varieties
<p>500g per Acre</p>	<p>2000g per Acre</p>
8,000/- to 10,000/-	8,000/-

It costs the same to use Hybrid and OPV varieties! Use Hybrid seed because of the better germination and tolerance to diseases.

Irrigate your crop

Watermelons are 90% water. Irrigate often so that the soil is very wet.

When the fruits start to grow, reduce irrigation. Stop irrigation 10 days before harvest.



Is your watermelon crop ready for harvest?

1. Tap it



If there is a dull hollow sound, it is probably ready.

2. Colour change



When it is ready, the colour will change from white to cream or pale yellow.

3. Shrivelled tendrils



If the tendrils on the same stem as the fruit are shrivelled, then it is probably ready.

If all 3 of the above signs are present, it is harvest time!

Dairy Feeds

Feeding Calves



Feed your calf **Fugo Calf Weaner Pellets**.

- It helps microbes to multiply in the rumen (one of the stomachs) of the calf. More microbes mean that food is better digested. The calf will put on weight faster. It can reach a breeding weight (300kg) in 15 months.
- The calf will take less milk. Sell the extra and make money.
- The calf will give you more milk when it is an adult.

For the first 7 days of your calf's life, it should drink **colostrum**.

After 7 days, give a handful of **Fugo Calf Weaner Pellets**. Gradually increase this over time.

By the end of the 1st month, your calf should get 0.5kg/day of pellets.
By the end of the 2nd month, your calf should get 1kg/day of pellets.
By the end of the 3rd month, your calf should get 1.5kg/day of pellets.



Feeding high yielding milking cows



If your cow gives more than 15L of milk a day, you can give it **Unga High Yielder Maxi-Milk** to help with digestion. With better digestion, the cow has more nutrients to make milk.

Give your cow 1kg of **High Yielder Maxi-Milk** for every 3L over 5L of milk produced.

So if your cow produces 17L of milk, this is 12L above 5L & since you give 1kg for every 3L above 5L, feed your cow 4 kg of **High Yielder Maxi-Milk** per day.



Mix the **Maxi-Milk** into your cow's feed.

Keep good records

Farming is a business. All good businesses keep records.



Records tell you how much money you are making or losing.

Banks will ask for your records if you ever want a loan.

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