This leaflet contains information on: Mbegu Choice, Maize Lethal Necrosis, nematodes in bananas, fertilizers, solar lights.

Mbegu Choice

*Mbegu Choice* is a source of information for farmers, agrodealers and extension officers. It gives you information on which crop variety to plant specific to your area. *Mbegu Choice* has information on 18 different crops. Use *Mbegu Choice* on a smartphone or a computer. It is available as an online tool and downloadable app. It can be used offline for easy access.

**How do you use Mbegu Choice?**

1. Go to Google and then type *mbegu choice* into the search bar. Click on *MbeguChoice*.
2. Choose a language.
3. Click *LET'S BEGIN*.
4. Select your county, then select your agri ecological zone, select your crop and then click *GET RESULTS*.
5. You can now get more specific results e.g. Disease Tolerant / Resistant crops.
6. Look at your results and choose a variety. Ask your agrovet for it.

For more information, SMS “MBEGU CHOICE” to 30606

If undelivered, please return to The Mediae Company, PO Box 215-00502, Karen.
Maize Lethal Necrotic Disease (MLND)

MLND is caused by 2 viruses. On their own, these viruses are not bad. When your maize gets both viruses, it will get MLND and die.

What does MLND look like?
- Drying leaves
- No tasselling
- Abnormal or no ears
- Rotting cobs.

If you think your crop may have MLND, you need to do a test. Buy a Bioreba kit from Daktari Wa Udongo. You can do the test on your shamba by following the instructions in the kit.

If you do not want to test by yourself, send a sample of a green maize leaf to Daktari wa Udongo (0790 499190). They will test your sample and send you the results.

If your maize crop does have MLND, pull out the affected crop straight away. This will help to stop the disease from spreading. The disease is spread by small insects.

Your MLND might be worse in the drought or if your soil is not fertile.

Prevent Nematodes

- Rotate crops
- Take out or kill all weeds. Weeds hide pests and diseases.

Nematodes in Bananas

Nematodes stop your banana plants from growing well. Growth will be stunted and leaves will turn yellow.

A soil test will tell you if you have nematodes. Send soil from the roots to be tested. Call Daktari wa Udongo on 0790 499190.

Prevent Nematodes

- Rotate your crops. Take out bananas after 5 years when the yield starts to decline and plant a different type of crop.
- Use nematicides. These are chemicals that kill nematodes. Buy nematicides from agrovets. Nematicides work better if used at planting.

Fertilizers

Using the right kind and right amount of fertilizer makes your soil good and healthy.

Mavuno makes fertilizers specific to your crop. Traditional fertilisers only contain NPK. Mavuno fertilizers contain NPK, but also secondary nutrients and micronutrients. These are very good for the soil and crop. Mavuno fertilizers can increase your yield by 30%!

Mavuno makes Planting Fertilizer and Topdressing Fertilizer.

Apply Mavuno fertilizers at planting: Maize

1. Dig holes 15 cm deep.
2. Put 1 teaspoon Mavuno Planting Fertilizer in each hole.
3. Cover the fertilizer with soil.
4. Put 2 seeds on top of the soil. They must NOT touch the fertilizer.
5. Cover the seeds with soil.

You will need 75 kg of Mavuno Planting for 1 acre (you can buy 3 packets of 25kg). Buy Mavuno fertilizers from agrovets. There are different pack sizes to choose from.

Topdress 45 days after germination, when maize is knee-high.

1. Dig around the crop.
2. Sprinkle 1 teaspoon of Mavuno Topdressing Fertilizer inside the trench.
3. Cover the fertilizer with soil.

Soil Acidity

Soil acidity is measured in pH. A low pH means that your soil is acidic. A high pH means that your soil is alkaline.

Maize grows best at pH 6-7. If your soil is too acidic, your crop will not grow well. Your crop may be different colours and not grow tall.

A soil test will tell you if your soil is acidic, and what fertilizers to add to make it better.

Act Fast

Nematodes stop your banana plants from growing well. Growth will be stunted and leaves will turn yellow.

A soil test will tell you if you have nematodes. Send soil from the roots to be tested. Call Daktari wa Udongo on 0790 499190.

Mavuno makes Planting Fertilizer and Topdressing Fertilizer.

Apply Mavuno fertilizers at planting: Maize

1. Dig holes 15 cm deep.
2. Put 1 teaspoon Mavuno Planting Fertilizer in each hole.
3. Cover the fertilizer with soil.
4. Put 2 seeds on top of the soil. They must NOT touch the fertilizer.
5. Cover the seeds with soil.

You will need 75 kg of Mavuno Planting for 1 acre (you can buy 3 packets of 25kg). Buy Mavuno fertilizers from agrovets. There are different pack sizes to choose from.

Topdress 45 days after germination, when maize is knee-high.

1. Dig around the crop.
2. Sprinkle 1 teaspoon of Mavuno Topdressing Fertilizer inside the trench.
3. Cover the fertilizer with soil.
Solar Lights

Do you want to do business in the evening? Stop your children from getting sore eyes? Listen to the radio? If so, then a d.light Solar Home System is for you!

A solar home system from d.light contains:
• A solar panel to put on your roof
• A battery to store the electricity
• 3 lights with switches. You can buy an extra light if you wish. The lights have 2 brightness settings. Put them in different rooms of your house
• A solar torch to check on your animals at night
• A radio which also has an alarm
• Cables which plug into the battery to charge your mobile phone.
• You can even buy a d.light TV and run it off your solar system!

d.light Power Systems are easy to install.

Pay for a d.light system with M-PESA

Pay a small deposit, then pay daily, weekly or monthly by M-PESA. The PayBill number and account number are on your battery.

Buy d.light products at Total petrol stations countrywide. You can call d.light on their free number 0800 72 11 10 or SMS on 21555.

Produced by Mediae

For another leaflet or more information, SMS 30606