

Series 5, Episode 20

Michael's farm, Meru, TANZANIA

This leaflet contains information on: maize farming, soil testing, growing potatoes & chicken farming

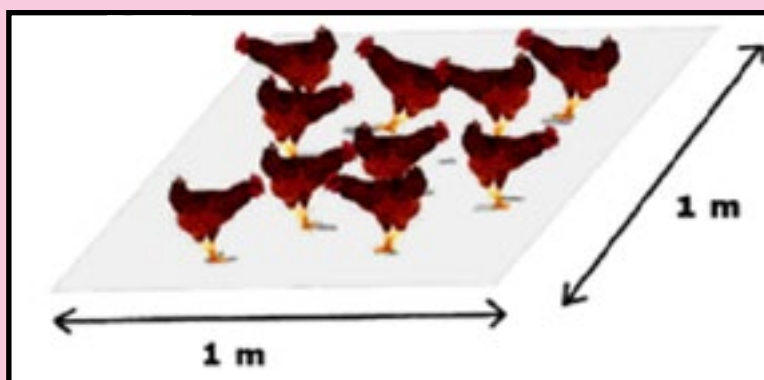


Starting A Good Chicken Business

For more information, SMS 'CHICKENS' to 30606

Remember these points to do well:

1. Clean and disinfect the chicken house by washing or fogging with disinfectant.
2. Each broiler chicken needs 1 square foot.
3. Put 3 – 4 inches of dry and disinfected wood shavings on the floor to keep the house dry.
4. Use a footbath with disinfectant (**Ultraxide** from **Ultravetis**) at the door.



1 metre square (10 square feet) is enough for 10 broiler chickens

Use A Brooder For Chicks

For the first 3 weeks, build a round brooder for chicks which has:

- Wood shavings on the floor
- A jiko to provide warmth
- Feeders with starter mash
- Drinkers with clean drinking water, vitamins and glucose

Broilers in Weeks	Feeds required
0 days – 21 (3 weeks)	Fast Gro Broiler Starter Mash/Crumbs
3 weeks – 6 weeks	Fast-Gro Finisher Mash/Pellets

Drinkers with clean water and glucose



Jiko to provide warmth

Wood shavings on the floor

Feeders with starter mash

Use a brooder for the first 3 weeks

Get A Good Maize Harvest

For more information, SMS 'MAIZE' to 30606

When Buying Seeds:

- Choose the right variety for your area
- Get seeds from well known seed suppliers
- Buy early enough before the planting season.
- Do not buy seeds that have stayed for more than one year. They will not germinate well.
- Buy real and not fake seeds. Real seeds have the following on the package: shelf life, seed lot number, seed company and their contacts.

Plant Maize Correctly

Maize gives families food and fodder for animals. Follow these steps to get a good harvest.

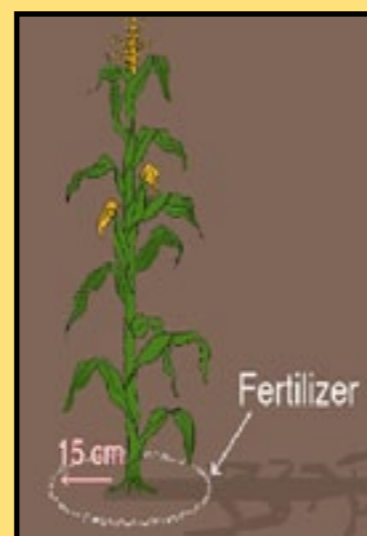
1. Make rows 75cm apart.
2. Make planting holes 30cm apart on each row.
3. Put handful of manure and teaspoon of planting fertiliser per hole.
4. Mix well with the soil.
5. Plant one seed per hole and cover lightly with soil.



Use these measurements when planting maize

Manage Your Crop For A Good Harvest

1. After 2 weeks, plant one more seed in holes which have not germinated. This is known as gapping.
2. Thin the crop after 3 - 4 weeks by pulling out weak and extra maize plants, leaving one plant every 30cm. This gives space for plants to grow well. Feed the pulled plants to your animals or make silage.
3. Weed after 6 - 8 weeks. Weed again every 4 weeks.



Topdress with 1 teaspoon CAN around each plant

Topdress For Bigger Cobs

1. Topdress with 1 teaspoonful of CAN at knee height/6 weeks (45-60 cm). You need 50kg/acre.
2. Topdress again at flowering stage with one teaspoon of CAN per plant.



Shell using a hand sheller to get grains from the cob

Harvest At The Right Time

Harvest maize when:

1. The stalks are dry and grains are dry and hard - test grain dryness using your teeth - bite on a kernel. If the kernel does not break, it is dry enough.
2. Cut the cob from the stalk and pull off the leaves.
3. Shell the maize using a hand sheller or a shelling machine.
4. Separate chaff from grains: use a wire mesh or winnow.

Is Your Maize Dry Enough To Store?

For more information, SMS 'STORAGE' to 30606

Maize should have a moisture content of < 12% before harvesting. To test the dryness of the grains:

1. Put one handful of maize and one teaspoon of dry salt in a dry glass or plastic bottle.
2. Shake well and leave for 2-3 minutes.
3. If the grains stick to the sides of the bottle, they are not dry enough.
4. Dry your maize and repeat after 2 days.
5. When the maize does not stick to the sides, it is dry and ready for storage.



Wet maize will rot and will not be sellable

Store Your Maize Without Chemicals:

Use airtight containers like jerry cans or metal silos:

- Put the clean and dry maize into the silo or jerry can.
- Then put a burning candle inside the container for 10-15 minutes. The candle will use all the air in the container so there is none for pests to breathe.
- Cover and tie the lid with a string.

Use Airtight Containers Because:

Airtight containers are the best way to store maize because:

- They keep maize safe for a long time.
- They are cheap.
- They are easy to use- you can reuse for 3 years.
- They use less space than sacks on the floor.
- It is easy to get maize when you need it.



Use plastic containers



Or a metal silo



Containers protect your maize from pests

PICS Bags

A PICS bag is a grain storage bag with 3 layers. The first two bags are plastic and the outer bag is woven. Pests cannot live in a PICS bag.



Do not store maize bags on the floor or against walls

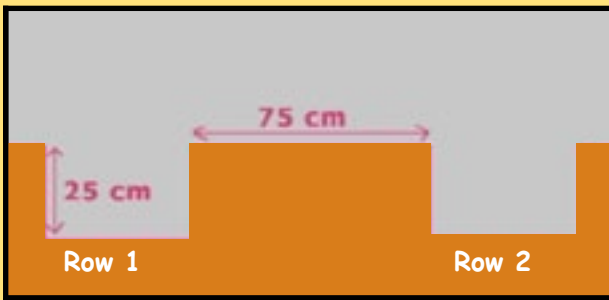


Fill the PICS bag and tie each bag tightly

Get A Good Potato Harvest

For more information, SMS 'POTATOES' to 30606

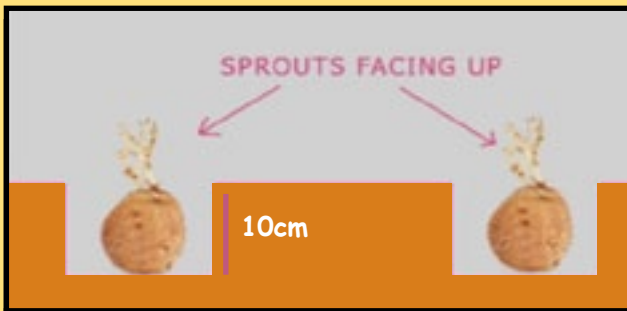
Dig the soil to a fine tilth and level then follow these steps to get a good potato harvest:



1. Make furrows 75cm apart and 25cm deep



2. Add a handful of manure and 10g/1 teaspoonful of planting fertiliser every 30cm and mix well with soil. Leave a depth of 10cm for planting.



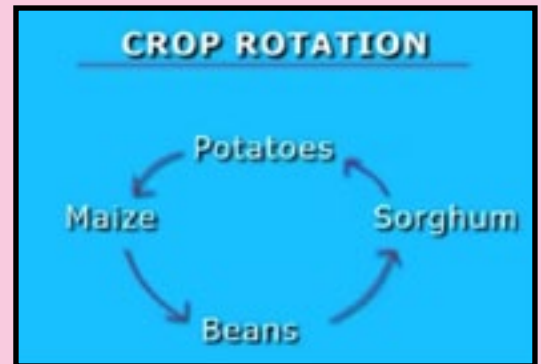
3. Plant potato seeds 10cm deep with sprouts facing up



4. Plant tubers 30cm apart in a row and cover with soil

After Planting

- Weed every week.
- After 3 - 4 weeks Spray 8g of **Daconil** from **Syngenta** mixed with 20 litres of water for ¼ acre. This will stop blight in your potato crop.
- Hill the furrows when your potatoes are 15 – 25cm tall - heap loose soil around the potato plants. This gives space for potatoes to grow bigger.
- Put a light mulch to protect tubers from beetles.



Rotate your crops to stop diseases

Produced by Mediae



Watch us on Citizen TV on:
Saturday 1.30pm (English)
Sunday 1.30pm (Kiswahili)

For another leaflet
or more information,
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