

Series 5, Episode 1

Agnes's farm, OLULUA, KENYA



This leaflet contains information on: using the right chemicals, soil testing, vegetables, cabbage farming and healthy broiler chicks.

Soil Test for Better Production

Poor soils give low harvest. Improve your soil and get good harvest. Test your soil to know which fertiliser to use, how much fertiliser to use and which works best on your shamba. Take a soil test after every 3 years.

- Dig up 1 foot of the top soil from your shamba using a panga or an auger (a tool used in soil testing)
- Take a handful of soil from the middle of the hole
- Place the soil in a bag
- Repeat the same step using zigzag method and collect soil samples from 20 other different places in your shamba.
- Take a sample and place it in a sample bag and seal
- Label your bag with your name, address, location phone number and the crops you want to grow.
- Send the sample to SoilCares

Benefits of Doing a Soil Test

Using the right fertiliser for your soil will improve the health and yields of your crops.

- The **soil pH** - if the soils are very acid, add **lime**. Acid soils will give you bad harvests.
- The **soil fertility** - N, P & K levels will be explained in the soil results.

Doing a soil test
will make your
shamba more
money



For more information SMS 'SOIL' to 30606

Growing Vegetables

Use the small space in your farm or garden and make a lot of money by growing vegetables. Grow vegetables that sell a good price such as cabbages, peppers, cucumbers and capsicum. They sell very fast in the market. This means you will get more money. For example:

If you grow 2000 heads of cabbages:

1 head can sell up to 100 ksh: 2000 cabbages × 100 Ksh = 200,000 Ksh

Expenses per head (seeds, chemicals and labour) is 50 ksh: 2000 cabbages × 50 Ksh = 100,000 Ksh

Profit (200,000 Ksh - 100,000 Ksh) = 100,000 Ksh in just 3 months!

Getting More Money From Tomato Farming

Tomatoes are very healthy and make good money in the market. To get bigger, better tomatoes and more money:

1. Water the tomato plant 3 times a week.
2. Add manure and the right fertiliser for your soil recommended after doing a soil test.
3. Plant different crops every year on your shamba. This stops diseases by breaking the pest's and diseases' lifecycle.
4. Rotate tomatoes with maize, carrots cabbage and onions, not potatoes.
5. Control pests and diseases like white flies, early blight or late blight. Spray with Actara to stop white flies or Daconil to prevent blight.



Pests and diseases can stunt your tomato crop

How To Make a Nursery That Gives 99% Germination

Stop losses early by transplanting healthy seedlings. A good seedbed can give you healthy seedlings.

1. Measure 1g of Apron Star and pour it into the sachet containing seeds. This will treat the seeds.
2. Add 100ml of water to the seeds and shake it well so all seeds are treated.
3. Place seeds in a carton box and dry for 10-15 minutes
4. Pour coco peat into each hole in a seedling tray. Use coco peat because it does not stick together and allows water to pass through very easily for seeds to grow well.
5. Level the coco peat in the tray.
6. Make shallow holes using fingers on each tray hole.
7. Put one seed in each hole.
8. Add a small layer of coco peat to cover the holes in the tray.
9. Sprinkle 1 litre of water every day over plants.
10. Place in the shade for 7 days



Seedlings are ready for transplanting after 7 days

For more information SMS 'VEGETABLES' to 30606

Keeping Disease Free Chicks

Take good care of chicks so that they grow fast, strong and healthy. Make sure:

1. The chicks house is clean and disinfected before chicks arrive.
2. You have a foot bath with disinfectant at the door step. Step in the footbath before going into the house. This stops diseases like Newcastle from attacking your chicks.
3. There are no holes for rats or wild birds to get into the house. This reduces the spread of diseases.
4. The house has a good ventilation so the chicks always have fresh air.
5. There are no bushes around the chicks house. Bushes bring in rats and snakes into the house.
6. Stop rats using Lanirat.



Put a foot bath in front of your chicken house to stop disease

Vaccinating Your Chicks Against Gumboro

- Put the 20ml of Gumboro vaccine in 20 litres of water and open it
- Stir to mix it evenly
- Put the vaccine in several drinkers
- Remove water for one hour to make the chicks thirsty



Mix Gumboro vaccine with drinking water

How To Kill Rats Using Lanirat

- Cut a hole in both sides of a cardboard box
- Put Lanirat in the box
- Place the box where rats always pass.
- The rat will come in and eat the bait. The rat will then leave the area and die.



Place the box where rats pass

For more information SMS 'CHICKEN' to 30606

Using The Right Chemicals

Identify pests and diseases properly so that you know the right chemicals to use. Buy the right chemical products and be careful to not use counterfeits.

For more information SMS 'CHEMICALS' to 30606

How To Know It Is A Good Quality Chemical:

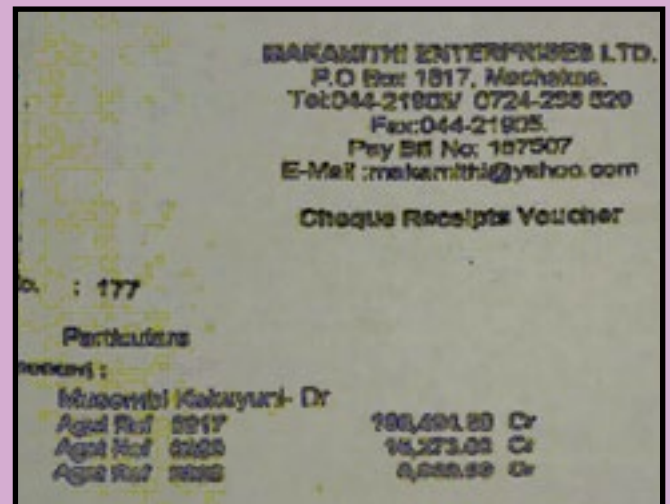
- Labels are coloured and the same for the other bottles of the same product
- Labels are written in both English and Kiswahili.
- Has a pest control product number.
- Has a barcode

What To Look At Before Buying Chemicals

- Buy from well-known agro-dealers, who are known to sell good quality products
- Ask for a pest control products license before buying chemical products.
- Get a receipt when buying. If you have a problem with the pesticide you bought, it will be easy to follow it back.



A sample pest control license with a product number



Always get a receipt of what you buy

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

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