

Series 4, Episode 15

Emmanuel & Rigan's Farm, Oloirien, KISERIAN



This leaflet contains information on: keeping chickens, Kenbro chickens, feeding chickens, choosing and planting Maize and Bean seed, harvesting rainwater and solar lights

Good chicken housing

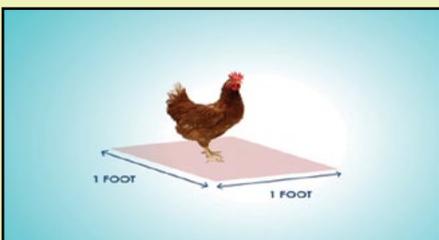
Chickens need a good, clean house to stay healthy so your chicken business can be a success.

The house should be built away from pathways, have a good roof, a dry, clean floor, ventilation on the North and South sides, curtains to close at night, a footbath, and drinkers and feeders.

Have one drinker and one feeder for every 50 chickens. Clean the feeders and drinkers **every day**.



The house should have enough space so that each bird has 1 square foot of space:



When you buy chicks, put them in a **round brooder**, lined with **wood shavings**, with a **jiko** and clean feeders and drinkers. On the first day, give the birds **glucose and liquid paraffin** mixed with their water, and the **vitamin** packet from the hatchery.



Chicken breeds

Kenchic has different types of chickens for every farmer. You can buy **layers, broilers, Kenbro or Sasso** chicks from Kenchic.

Kenbro and Sasso breeds are good strong birds which do not need a lot of work.

Kenchic hatch their chicks at the factory in Mlolongo, and grade them, vaccinate and box them well, so when you buy the chicks from a distributor, you are sure the chicks are healthy and of good quality.



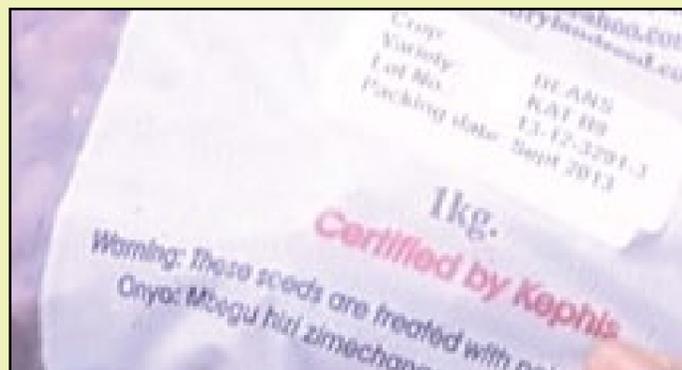
Feeding chickens

To feed **Kenbro** chicks well, give them **Fugo Fast Gro Chick and Duckling Mash** for the first **8 weeks** to make them grow quickly.

Then, feed them **Fugo Fast Gro Finisher Mash** mixed with maize or sorghum - one handful of each per bird - until they are ready to slaughter at 18 weeks.

Choosing Good Seed

Different varieties of a crop are good for different areas of the country, different soil types, amounts of rain and temperatures.



The **KEPHIS** certification means the seeds have been tested and are good

To know which seed to buy for Maize, you can use the **KEPHIS Seed SMS Service**:

Send a message with the word **maize**, then a #, then the name of your division to 20354. For example: **maize # oloirien**.

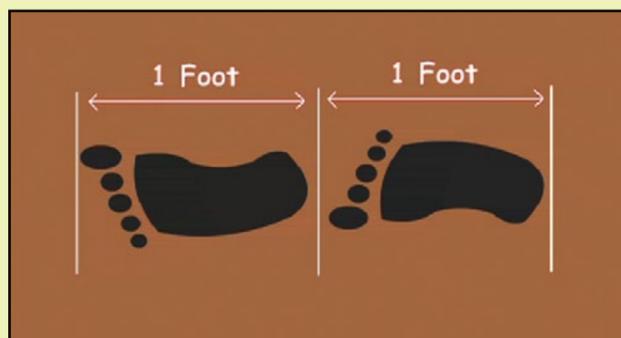
Planting maize

Maize needs good soil to grow well, and does not like heavy soil, or very wet soil. Always plough your soil after the season's harvest, so that it will be ready for the next rains. Then, after weeding, plant the maize at the start of the rain.

To know when the rain starts, check the **weather forecast**.

Always plant your maize with the correct spacing. If you plant the seeds too close together, the plants will not get enough nutrients or light to make a good harvest. If you plant too far apart, there are not enough plants in the plot to give enough harvest.

When planting maize on its own, make **rows 75cm apart and holes 30cm (1 foot) apart on each row**. Add DAP and manure to each hole and mix with the soil, then add two maize seeds, and cover.

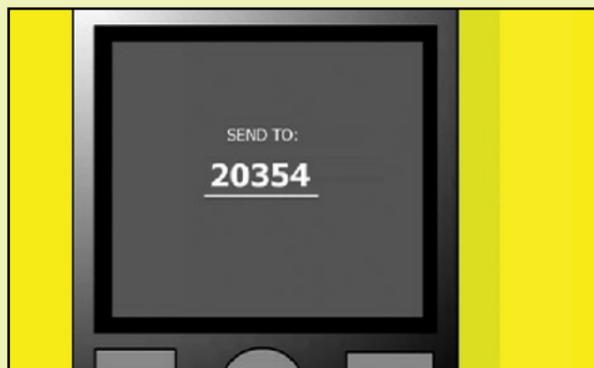


If you do not have a measure, use your own foot to estimate.

If you are intercropping, plant the seeds 50cm apart on each row and plant the bean rows between each row of maize, with two seeds per hole for beans, and each hole 30cm apart on the row.

It is important to choose the right variety of maize for your area. Buying good seed, of the right variety, will give you a better harvest.

Always buy seed with the **KEPHIS** logo, which means the seed has been certified by KEPHIS. Certified seed will germinate well and give you good yields.



Use the **KEPHIS** system to choose your seed for your area.

Planting beans

Beans grow well in areas with more rain, which are not very hot. Too much rain or drought and very hot temperatures (over 30°C) will make your harvest smaller.

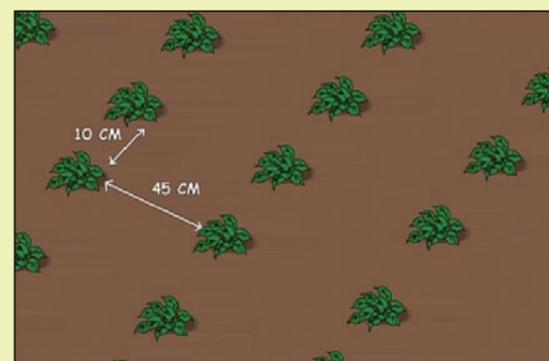
For a better harvest, choose a good seed for your area. Dry areas need dryland varieties. For dry areas, Katumani Bean 9 is a good variety. Remember to look for the **KEPHIS** logo.

One week before planting, prepare your soil by digging to a fine tilth and mixing in well rotted farmyard manure. You will need 7 tons of manure per acre.

Buy treated seed if you can, otherwise treat your seed with a **seed dress** such as **Fenasan** or **ApronStar**.

If you are planting beans alone, make **rows 45cm apart and holes 10cm apart on each row**. If you are **intercropping** with maize, make one row of beans between each maize row, with the plants 30cm apart.

Intercropping maize with beans will give you a better maize yield, and you will not need to weed as much.



If you cannot measure 10cm, use your thumb and finger to make a measure:

Mix DAP with manure in each hole. Plant two seeds per hole and cover with soil.

Weed after three weeks, and again after another three weeks. Do not weed or hoe when the crop is flowering.

Harvest once all the pods have turned brown and are hard, then dry the plants and thresh when dry. Store the beans in clean gunias and treat with Super Actelic (50g per 90kg bag). The bags should be in a clean, dry, dark store and should not touch the ground or the walls.



Save money with solar

Kerosene is expensive, and is bad for your health. Fumes from Kerosene can damage your eyes, your lungs and make your children sick.

Kerosene is also expensive - most Kenyans spend 100Ksh every week on Kerosene, which is 5,200Ksh every year.

To save money and to help your health, you can use the money you would spend on Kerosene, to buy a solar light. This will give you good quality, clean light for free.

Some solar lights also charge your phone, also saving you money.

dLight has a solar lamp S300 which can be used as a lantern, a torch and a phone charger.

To find a dLight lamp, check with your nearest Total petrol station or at a Sollatek distributor.

For more information, SMS 'DLIGHT' to 30606



Free water for your family

For many months of the year, it does not rain. If you do not have a river, well or borehole nearby, you can spend a lot of time gathering water. You could use this time to spend on your farm, if you catch rainwater for your house.

Use clean, strong guttering without any rust, and a good strong tank on a plinth to store the rainwater. A house of 20 feet by 10 feet can catch 55 litres of water, every time it rains!

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