

Series 4, Episode 2

Rebecca's farm, WEBUYE

This leaflet contains information on: Planting Groundnuts, Legume Fertiliser, Aflatoxin in Groundnuts, Chicken houses, Chicken feed



Housing for chickens

Chicken houses need:

- 1 – to be away from other buildings and paths through the shamba
- 2 – to have good ventilation – at least 3 feet of wire mesh on all sides to let the air flow through the house
- 3 – secure – at least 3 feet of solid wall around the bottom of all sides to stop predators
- 4 – to have enough space for each chicken to have 1 square foot of space. This means the chickens will grow evenly and will not fight for space
- 5 – to have clean feeders with enough feed for all the chickens

Chick trays	First 10 days	1 tray per 100 chicks.
Chick feeders	Day 10 to day 21	1 feeder per 50 chicks
Adult feeders	From day 21 to slaughter	1 feeder per 50 chickens

- 6 – to have clean drinkers with enough clean water for all the chickens

Chick drinkers	Day 1 to 3 weeks	1 drinker per 80 chicks
Adult drinkers	From three weeks to slaughter	1 drinker per 50 chickens

- 7 – a footbath at the door to keep disease out
- 8 – to be cleaned and sprayed before any new chickens arrive
- 9 – to have curtains to close at night for warmth

For more information SMS 'CHICKEN HOUSE' to 30606

Feeding chickens for meat

Broilers can make a good business. Broiler chickens are ready to slaughter after 10 weeks if you feed them correctly.

For best results, follow the calendar and give the chickens as much feed as they can eat

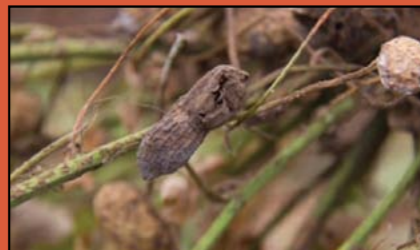
For more information SMS 'CHICKEN FEED' to 30606

AGE	FEED
0-3 weeks	FUGO Fast Gro Starter Mash or Crumbs
3 weeks – Slaughter	FUGO Fast Gro Finisher Mash or Pellets

Aflatoxin poisoning of Groundnuts

What is Aflatoxin?

Aflatoxin is a poison made by mould in soils. Aflatoxin is invisible, and has no smell or colour. You can only see the mould when there is too much of it. The mould looks like a green, white or yellow powder on the nuts. It grows in broken, stressed or damaged groundnuts in the soil or after harvest in the store.



Aflatoxin may result in liver cancer and make us weaker so we get sick more often. Children can be stunted. If animals eat feed infected with aflatoxin, their meat and milk can contain the poison.



Planting Groundnuts

Plant the correct variety for your region, and use certified seeds which are stronger.

Plant with good rain. End of season drought makes the pods crack, so mould can get into the pod.

- At the start of the rains, start to plant your groundnuts. Treat the seed with a seed treatment or with a legume inoculant, like Biofix.
- First, make furrows 2 feet apart.
- Sprinkle DAP or recommended planting fertilizer along the furrows, and mix with the soil.
- Every 1/2 a foot along the furrow, plant a seed
- Cover the seed with soil

Weed the field so the plant can use all the nutrients in the soil. A healthier plant can prevent mould invasion.

For more information, SMS 'GROUNDNUT' to 30606

Harvesting to avoid Aflatoxin

- If you harvest late, the pods crack. Cracked pods will be invaded by mould. It is important to harvest at the right time.
- To check if the pods are mature, shell the pods of 3 plants. If 7 out of 10 pods have dark marks in the inner shell and the nuts are the right colour, they are ready to harvest.
- Lift by hand, holding the whole plant at the base, when the soil is moist to make it easier. Or use a hoe to dig below the pod level to avoid damage.
- Shake the pods to remove soil – this stops the mould growing on the pods after harvest.
- Separate dead or sick plants during stripping.
- Dry your harvest as soon as possible. Well-dried pods make a rattling sound when shaken.

Storing to avoid Aflatoxin

Remove mouldy, broken, cracked, and discoloured nuts and throw away. Store good nuts separately in a dark, dry place. If you want to store your groundnuts for a long time, do not shell them – the shells protect the nuts.

Using fertilizer for legumes such as groundnuts

There are fertilizers which are made for legumes, like SYMPAL which has NPK blended with Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphur.

Groundnuts, beans and other legume crops have nodules on their roots. These nodules can fix Nitrogen in the soil to make it more useful to the plant. This is why it is good to plant legumes between your maize rows, to give the maize extra nitrogen.

Mea Fertilizer has a special planting fertilizer for legumes which makes them grow more nodules, so they can fix more Nitrogen. This means you do not have to use other Nitrogen fertilizers for your crop, saving you money.

Nitrogen helps with **leaf development** and **plant growth**. When you do not have enough Nitrogen, your leaves will be light coloured and your plants will be short.

This fertilizer is called **Biofix Legume Inoculant** and one 100gram packet is enough for **15 kilos of seed/1 acre of groundnuts or beans**.

How to use Biofix

First, working in the shade, pour your seeds into a large container.

Then mix the white powder in the Biofix packet with 300ml of water and stir well.

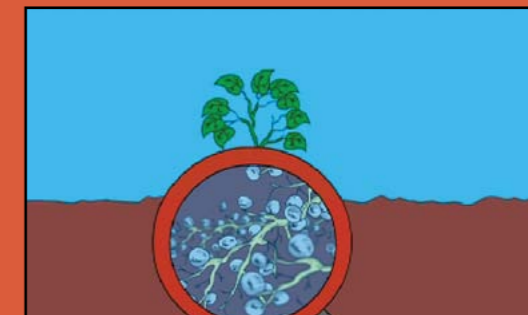
Pour the water mixture onto the seeds and stir until all the seeds are coated with the water mixture. This mixture will help the fertilizer stick to the seed.

Add the black powder, which is the Biofix inoculant, to the seeds. Stir until all the seeds are coated in the black powder.

Pour the seeds onto a clean sheet under the shade to dry.

When the seeds are dry, plant them immediately, following the instructions for that crop.

For more information, SMS "BIOFIX" to 30606



Root nodules on legumes are where the plant fixes Nitrogen. The more nodules the roots have, the more Nitrogen they can fix



First, mix the white powder with 300ml water



Second, mix the water and powder mixture with the seeds and stir well



Third, stir the black powder into the seeds



Fourth, The seeds should all be covered with the Biofix

Planting Indigenous Vegetables for a healthier family



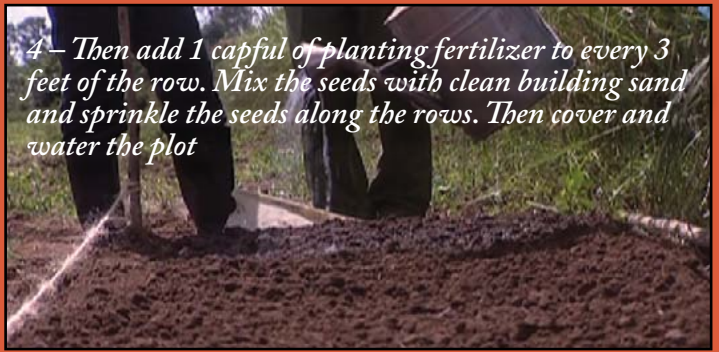
1 – First, prepare the land by digging, removing large clods and breaking the soil to a fine tilth. Then mix the soil with good quality, well rotted farm yard manure



2 – Make rows 1 ft apart



3 – The rows should be 5cm deep



4 – Then add 1 capful of planting fertilizer to every 3 feet of the row. Mix the seeds with clean building sand and sprinkle the seeds along the rows. Then cover and water the plot



5 – To protect the plot from the sun and from drying out, mulch the plot with a thin layer of dried grass

Indigenous vegetables are very good for the family. They are full of vitamins and minerals. Feeding your family with indigenous vegetables, like Amaranthus (Terere), will give them a good start in life.

¼ acre of indigenous vegetables will keep your family in good health as part of a balanced diet.

You can buy good quality seeds for your indigenous vegetables from KARI, Simlaw Seeds and some Universities. ASARECA is working with KARI to develop good seeds for indigenous vegetables.

For more information,
SMS 'INDIGENOUS VEGETABLES' to 30606

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