



Series 4, Episode 1

Gideon and Alice, Kampi ya Moto, RONGAI

This leaflet contains information on: Fertiliser, Orange Flesh Sweet Potato storage and planting, Kenbro chickens, chicken housing, feeding Kenbro chickens, pasture management and feeding cattle

Maintaining grass for cattle feed

Milk prices are high in the dry season. It is good to keep your cow well fed to get good profits from milk.

Pull out the maize/sorghum stalks (Stover) when they are green and dry them for storage. In the dry season, use a **chaff cutter** to chop the stover into 1cm pieces. The cow will digest this easily and make more milk.

For good pasture, plant **Boma Rhodes** grass. Boma Rhodes grass is good for dry areas. It can be grazed or cut and baled and is very good for cattle.

1. Plough the soil twice and weed well.
2. Broadcast the seed (1.2kg per $\frac{1}{4}$ acre) with sand or sawdust and DAP to get a good grass crop.
3. Topdress with Urea in the rains.

You can harvest 4 tons of grass per acre per year.

If grazing, rotate the field you use so that the cows always have some grass they can eat.

For more information, SMS 'Hay' to 30606



Maize stovers are good dry season feed. Use a chaff cutter to chop the stovers into small pieces



'Hay bales can store for 1 year. One cow will eat $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 bale per day. One acre can give you 80 bales of hay'

Improve your cattle herd

In dry areas, it is better to have 2 good cows giving you 10 litres of milk a day (20 litres total) than 14 mixed breed cows giving you 1 litre of milk a day (14 litres total, more costs).

Good breeds for dry areas are Jersey or Guernsey which do not need a lot of food but give good milk. You can cross these cows with local cows to make a stronger stock. Remember to vaccinate your cows against ECF and spray every 2 months.



Grow sorghum for better markets

In drier areas or where weather is not regular, **sorghum** is a good crop to grow. It does not need a lot of rain, and if the rain fails the plant can stop growing until the rain returns. Sorghum also makes more stalks with more grain if it has enough space or rain.

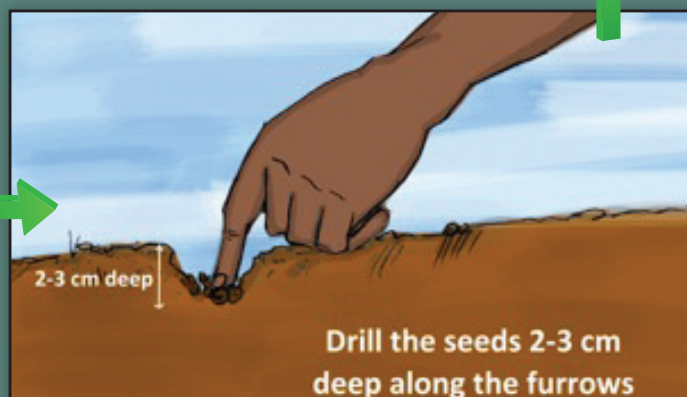
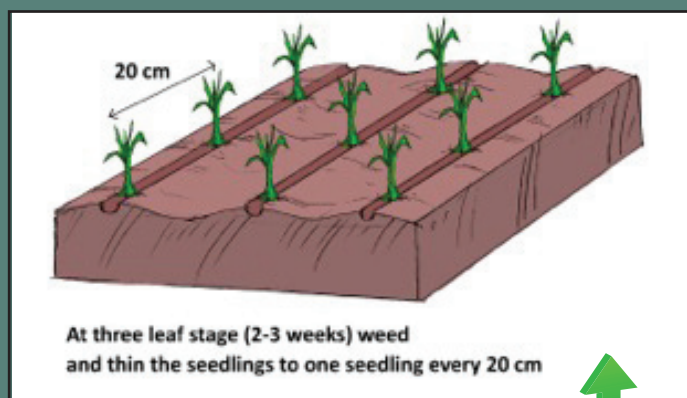
East African Breweries Ltd are using **Gadam or Sila white sorghum** to make Senator beer. Their suppliers will give you a contract to grow the sorghum and you will get a set price. Getting a set price helps you plan your income.

Growing sorghum in **groups** will get you a better market. If your neighbours are in your group, they can help you to scare away birds or to plough your shamba.



Planting Gadam Sorghum

1. Plough and harrow the field to a fine tilth
2. Make furrows 75cm apart with dips between the furrows to catch rain water
3. Mix DAP with soil along the furrows
4. Drill the seeds 2-3cm deep along the furrow
5. At three leaf stage (2-3 weeks), **weed and thin** the seedlings to **one seedling every 20 cm**
6. At the same time, spray for **Shootfly**
7. At 1 month, **stem borer** attacks the plant. Look for holes in the **leaves** or purple/brown marks on the **stem**
8. When the plants are knee high (1 ½ foot), weed and then **topdress with CAN (1 bag per acre)** with the rain
9. Flowering takes place at 45-52 days
10. Bird scaring should be done at grain filling for 3 weeks
11. **Gadam sorghum is ready to harvest after 90 days**
12. Dry the grain on the head
13. Thresh and winnow the grain
14. Store in sacks off the ground and not touching the walls until the buyer collects or you take to market
15. **You should get 12 bags per acre of sorghum**



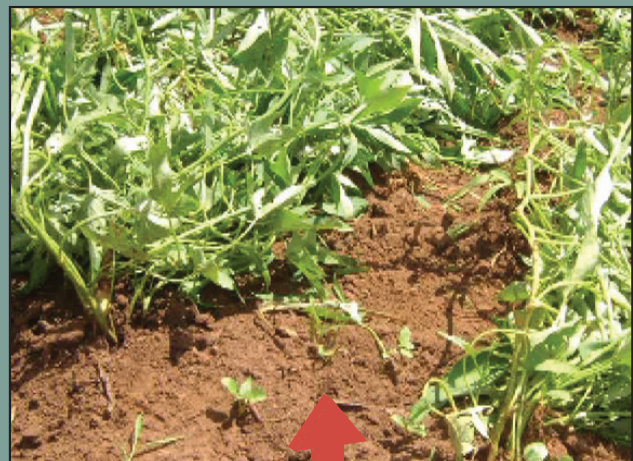
Orange Flesh Sweet Potato for Dry Season

Orange Flesh Sweet Potato is a good crop for all areas and is ready to harvest in **90-120 days**. The potato gives you Vitamin A which is good for eyes, mainly for mothers and young children.

Potatoes can be stored in the dry season to use for planting in the next rains using the **Sand Storage Sprouting method**. This method will give you a large number of planting vines ready when the rains arrive. This means you will get a better crop.

1. Carefully select small or medium roots which are healthy and have no diseases
2. Collect **dry sand** from your shamba
3. Line a **basin or bucket** with newspaper
4. Put the roots around the base of the basin
5. Cover the roots with the sand
6. Put more roots on the top of the sand and cover again
7. Repeat until the basin is full
8. Cover the top layer with **5cm** of sand
9. Store in a dry place away from animals
10. **6-8 weeks before the rains, take out the roots**
11. Plant in rows **50cm apart** on their side
12. Cover with soil and sprinkle with water
13. Water the roots every 3-4 days
14. Each root will make several vines
15. When the rains start, take **cuttings** from the vines which have sprouted
16. When taking cuttings, cut the **top end of the vine** to avoid pests and diseases
17. Plant the **cuttings** in your shamba on ridges 3 feet apart and water well
18. You will **harvest in 90 – 120 days**

For more information, SMS 'Orange Sweet Potato' to 30606



Chickens for dry areas

For dry areas, chose a chicken which needs less food and can give you eggs and meat.

Kenchic produces **Kenbro** chicks which grow quickly and give eggs. You can cross a Kenbro cock with a local chicken hen to improve your local breed.

To feed Kenbro chicks you need to give them **Chick and Duck Mash** for the first **three weeks**. Then, you can give them **two handfuls** of **Layer's Mash** or **Grower's Mash** mixed with **two handfuls** maize or **sorghum** for each chicken every day.

Kenbro chickens need a house with **good ventilation**, **dark safe layer nests** and **1 square foot per chicken**.

Remember to keep a foot bath with disinfectant at the chicken house door, and keep the chicken house clean and dry.



Kenbro Chickens can be kept for both meat and eggs and are easy to feed

Age	Feed	Amount
0-3 weeks	Chick and Duck Mash Fresh clean water	Freely available
3 weeks – 3 months	Layer's Mash/Grower's Mash PLUS Local feed – maize/sorghum/greens/omena Fresh clean water	Two handfuls of Layer's or Grower's Mash PLUS Two handfuls other feed As much as can be drunk
Adult life for Kenbro to lay	Layer's Mash PLUS Local feeds Fresh clean water	Two handfuls PLUS Two handfuls As much as can be drunk

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