

Trapping water for your household

Mama Agnes was buying water for cooking and drinking. This costs a lot of money. Rainwater that falls on your roof is good enough for drinking, cooking, irrigating and giving to livestock. It is also free!

With some simple guttering and a tank, you can trap enough water for your house to last until the next rains.

Guttering to catch water from your roof can be made with anything – old pipes, 5 litre mtungis cut in half or proper plastic or metal gutters. You can also direct the water to anywhere you need it – Mama Agnes had her tank inside her house for safety.



Use less firewood and cook quicker!

Mama Agnes was having problems with the smoke from her cooking fire, and she was using a lot of wood.

Ezy Life came with a new jiko for the house. Their jikos save you time, firewood and money and help your health. They use less firewood, make little smoke and a lot of heat.

The Jiko Tosha or Envirofit M-5000 jiko Agnes chose is lightweight and lasts for up to 5 years. It also has a one year warranty, and costs between 2,100 and 2,200 Shillings

For more information, SMS 'JIKO' to 30606



The Jiko Tosha from EzyLife makes cooking faster and easier



Series 2: Episode 4

Evans & Mama Agnes' farm - MWEA

This leaflet contains information on: Rice planting, new rice fertiliser, potato pest and disease control, chickens, water harvesting and jikos

Get a good local market by growing something different

Evans was growing potatoes in Mwea. Almost nobody grows potatoes in Mwea, even though it costs 2100/ per month to buy enough potatoes for the family. So, because Evans was growing potatoes in an area where everyone else needed to buy them, he was able to get a good market for his crop.

Look around your area and find out what vegetables or food people need, but nobody grows. Then you will be able to grow something and sell it locally at a good market.

Chickens

If you want to keep chickens to make money, a good type of chicken to grow is the Kenbre broiler from Kenchic.

These grow quickly, so you can sell a heavy bird sooner than other chickens. They will also produce eggs, which can help you feed your family better.

You can feed the Kenbro broilers on good broiler feed, and supplement with maize stalks, and rice chaff.

You can buy day old Kenbro chicks. With 4 hens and a rooster, you will have many chickens to sell.

Make sure you use standard feeders and drinkers so the chickens can eat and drink enough.

For more information, SMS 'Kenbro' to 30606



Produced by Mediae



Watch us on citizen television on
Saturday 1.30 - 2.00pm (English)
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Rice production

Growing rice is not easy. The cost of inputs is high, and the normal way to grow rice in a paddy uses a lot of water.

Rice is the main food for most of the world's people. To keep feeding everyone, we need to produce more rice per acre. At the same time, we need to reduce costs, and the amount of water used.

Planting rice the old way

Usually, the farmer does primary tillage to get the field ready, and then he adds water to the field.

After that, he levels the field so there is even water across the paddy using oxen.

Then, when seedlings are 21-30 days old, the farmer plants the seedlings and scatters fertiliser over the paddy.

Planting rice the new way

The new way of planting rice is called SRI, which will produce more rice but at the same time save money on seedlings and fertiliser.

The rice seedlings are planted younger than the old way, when they are 10-14 days old.

First of all, level the paddy. Then, mark the places where you will plant the seedlings. There should be **11 inches (25cm)** between each plant in all directions, in a grid. Make sure you plan the seedling **within 30 minutes** of taking it out of the nursery, so it does not dry out or die.

The paddy is not flooded, but kept a little wet. So only irrigate when you need to. This means more air can get to the roots and the plants make better rice.

Fertilising the rice crop

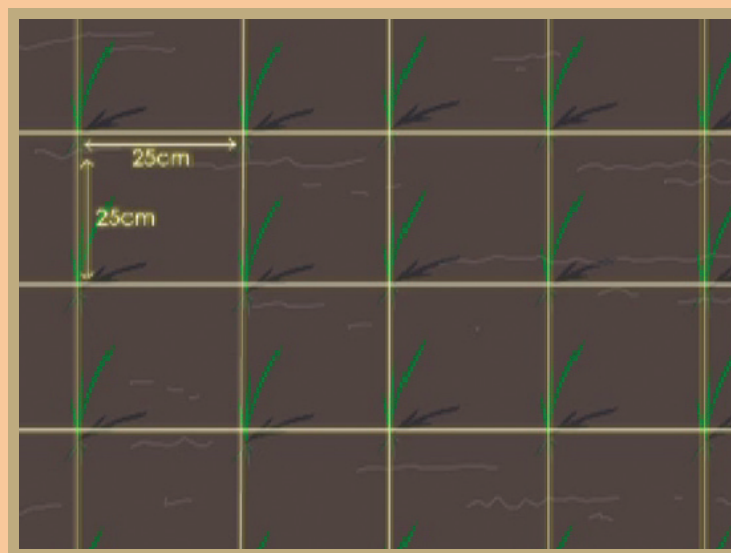
Usually, farmers throw the fertiliser over the crop. This wastes a lot of fertiliser and money.

The new way to fertilise is called **urea displacement**, which saves money and increases the yield by 20%. The urea is pushed into the soil near one plant, and spreads slowly through the soil to feed all the other plants around it. This does not waste any fertiliser.

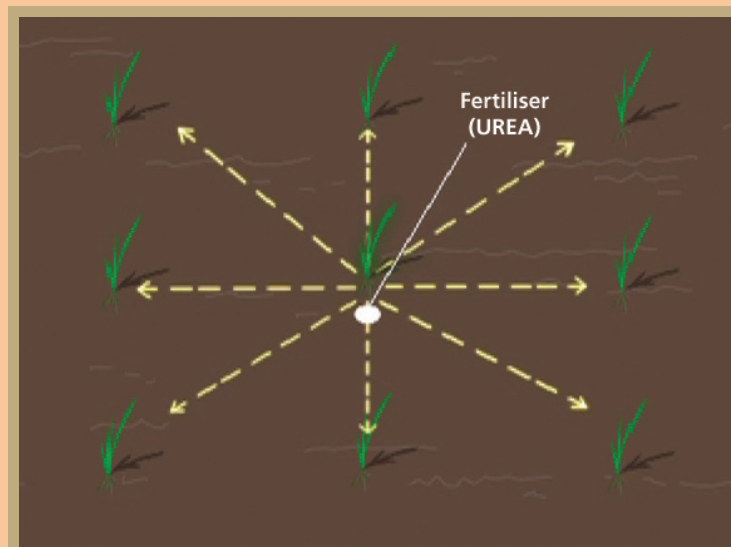
For more information, SMS 'RICE' to 30606



Rice farming requires a lot of effort



Giving the rice plants more space means they will grow better



This way of fertilising will save you money

Protect your potatoes

Evans had some problems with disease on his potatoes.

Blight

If you can see spots on your potato leaves, which spread over the leaf, this means you have early blight.

Syngenta has a good product to cure and protect against early blight called **Ridomil Gold**; this will protect your crop for 14 days. One pack, which is enough for one tank, costs 150/-.

Leaf miner

Leaf miner is easy to see as it makes lines on the leaves, which destroys the leaves. The leaves are needed to make the potatoes big and give you a good crop; without good leaf cover, the crop will be poor and the potatoes small.

Syngenta has a product called **Dynamec**, which is used to target the areas which have the miner – so you use less chemicals.

Insects

Worms, caterpillars and flying insects are problems for potato farmers. You can by **Match** from Syngenta to control the insects. A packet of Match is enough for 20 litres of water. Spray the whole crop. Only spray insecticide when you have seen the insects.

Match, Dynamec and Ridomil can be tank mixed and sprayed together. Remember, always wear mask, gloves, overall and gumboots when using any chemicals.

Planting potatoes properly

When choosing the seed potatoes, use only the ones which are clean and well sprouted, without any disease.

Make ridges 2 ½ feet apart. Make a trench in the ridge. Then spread manure in the trench. Make holes every 1 foot, and add 1 capful (10 grams) of **DAP** fertiliser. Mix the fertiliser with the soil. Then plant the potato there, with the sprout facing **up**, then cover the potato with the top soil.

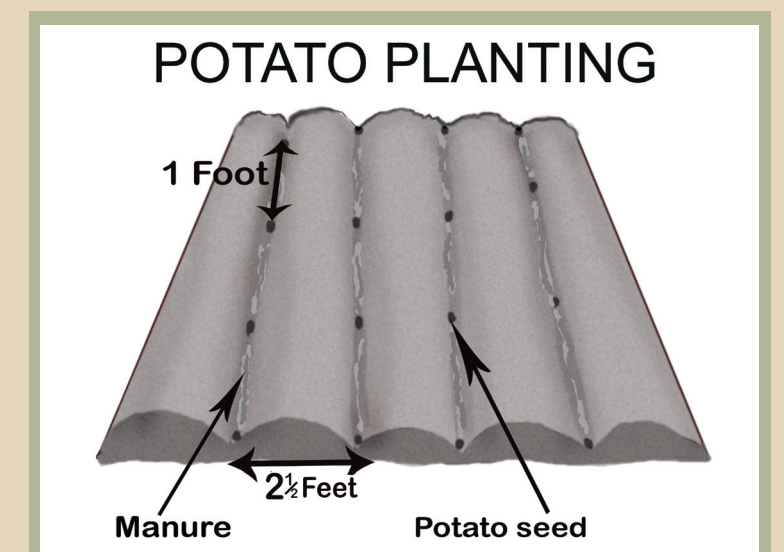
For more information, SMS 'POTATO' to 30606



Early blight will damage your crop



Choose only clean, healthy seed potato with one sprout



Make ridges 2 ½ feet apart. Make a trench in the ridge.