

Materials

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| A. Jembe | E. Maize seeds |
| B. Pen | F. 10 meter planting string |
| C. Fertilizer scoop | G. 2 spacing sticks (75 cm) |
| D. Planting fertilizer | H. Prepare a shamba near to your training |

Introduce One Acre Fund's planting technique

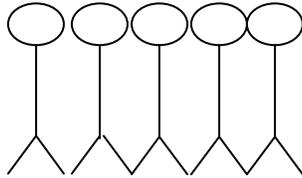
1. One Acre Fund's methods are tested and proven.
2. Today I am going to teach you the One Acre Fund Planting Method.
3. The average One Acre Fund farmer harvests 15 bags per acre.
4. *Ask 2 volunteers to come to front and raise their hands.*
 - a. Count each finger together: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6...
5. The regular farmer harvests 5 bags from an acre without proper inputs.
6. *Ask 1 volunteer to come to the front and raise 1 hand.*
 - a. Count each finger together: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7. Ask: which farmer would you rather be: One Acre Fund or Regular? (One Acre Fund!)
8. Remember: farming is risky, and we do not guarantee harvests. If you follow our instructions, work together and work hard, you increase your chances of harvesting well.
9. It is important you follow the instructions we will review today!
10. Thousands of farmers have benefited and increased their harvests.
11. Who is ready to learn a new and proven way of planting maize? (*Wait until people raise their hand.*)

Importance of proper seed spacing

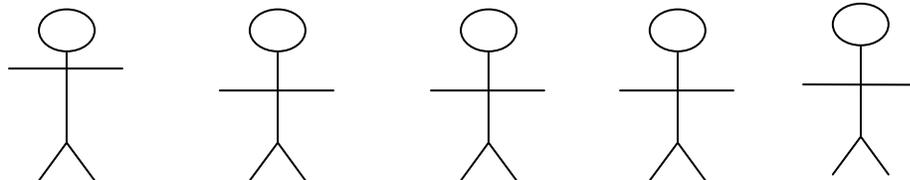
1. *Ask for five volunteers.*
2. If there are too many plants, they have to compete for sunlight, water and nutrients. Your harvest will be small!
3. If there are not enough plants, there will be wasted space on the field and your harvest will be small!
4. These volunteers are maize seeds. Their arms are roots.

Farmers First

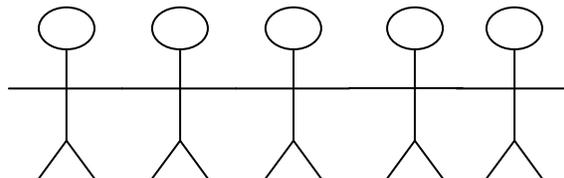
5. Tell volunteers to stand very near to each other, with shoulders touching.
6. Tell them to try to stretch their arms out to the side.



7. Their arms are like the roots of the maize plant.
8. The roots cannot spread out to get enough nutrients.
9. Tell volunteers to spread out very far and to stretch out their arms to side.
10. Walk/run/dance between the volunteers.



11. Look at all this wasted space!
12. There is so much room, I could have planted more seeds and grown more maize!
13. Tell volunteers to space so they can raise their arms with only fingertips touching.



14. The roots are getting enough space to grow and get nutrients.
15. I am not wasting any space between plants.
16. For 10 seeds planted incorrectly, you lose 1 goro goro of maize!!!
17. Do you want to lose goro goros of maize? (No!)

Quiz farmers and review answers

- Why do we space our seeds when planting?
- How much space should we have between seeds in a row?
- How much space should we have between rows?
- When is it okay to intercrop beans? Where do we plant the beans?

Farmers First

Review and correct planting strings

1. The planting string will help us get just the right spacing.
2. *Have group members show everyone their planting string and spacing sticks*
3. Quiz farmers:
 - a. How far apart are seeds spaced? (25 cm!)
 - b. How far apart are rows spaced? (75 cm!)
4. Have facilitators assist you in measuring every group's planting string with their sample planting string.
5. If a planting string is not correct advise groups on what to fix before input delivery.

Review important instructions on bean intercropping

- Beans will use too much of the fertilizer for your maize.
- Do not plant bean seeds in the same holes as maize seeds.
- The beans will use up all of the fertilizer and cause your maize harvests to be very small.
- You can plant beans *in between* the rows of maize *after* the maize has germinated.
- This will result in larger maize and bean harvests!

6. Appreciate their hard work!

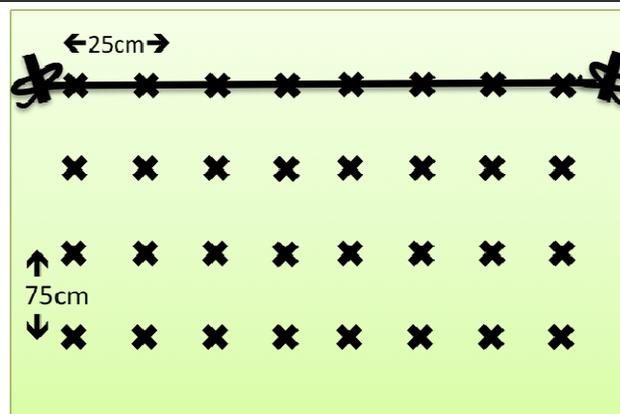
-----MOVE TO THE SHAMBA -----

Demonstrate how to use the planting string

1. Attach the string to two sticks on either end of the line where you want to plant.
2. The string must be very tight to get straight lines and proper spacing.

Quiz farmers and review answers

- Why do we space our seeds when planting?
- How much space should we have between seeds in a row?
- How much space should we have between rows?
- When is it okay to intercrop beans? Where do we plant the beans?



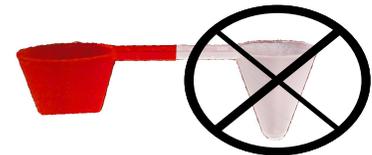
3. Next to each mark, dig a small hole with a jembe; the center of the hole should line up with the mark on the string.
4. Using two spacing sticks to measure, move the planting string to the next line, 75cm away.

When to plant

1. The best time to plant is in the evening or morning, when soil is wet.
2. Wait for 3 days of rain.
3. We check the KARI weather reports and will let you know the best time to start planting.

Review planting technique

1. Cut a hole about as deep as a writing pen.
2. The holes must be deep enough so that we have room to put some soil in to separate the fertilizer and seed.
3. Put 1 level RED scoop of fertilizer in the bottom of the hole.
4. Remember: 1 RED scoop = 1 hole
5. Hold up a maize seed and ask what color is this seed?
6. Remember: red seed = red scoop.
7. We will use the other scoop for top-dressing fertilizer.
8. Fill the hole half-way with soil.
9. Make sure the fertilizer is **completely covered**. If fertilizer touches the seed directly, the seed will be burned.
10. Place the seed in the half-filled hole.
11. Fill the hole completely with soil.



(Red!)

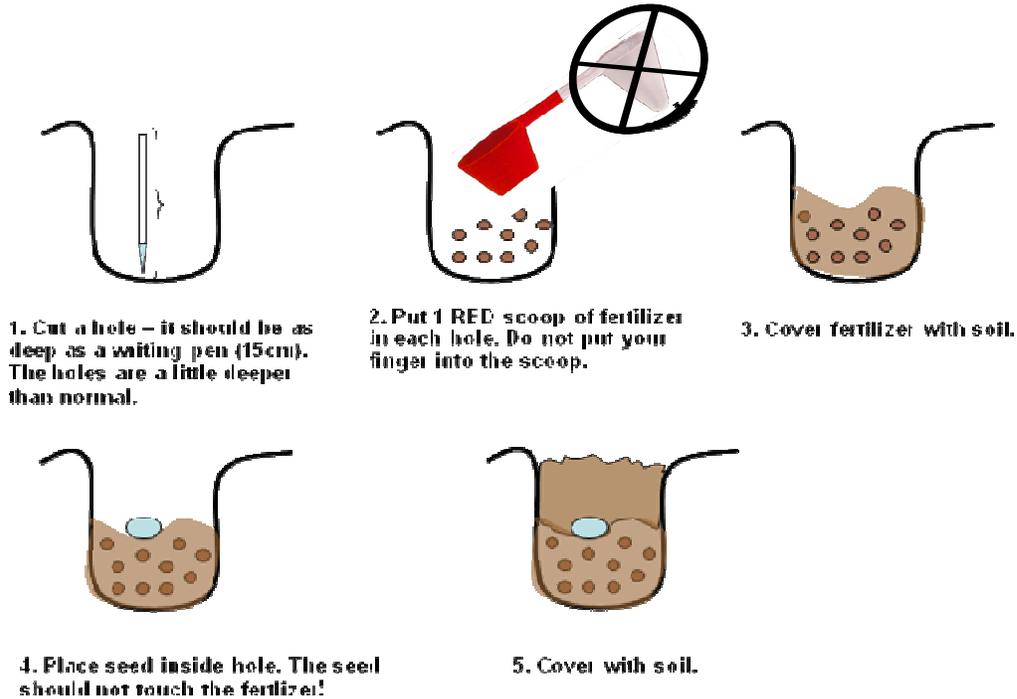


Quiz farmers and review answers

- How deep are the holes?
- Which color scoop do we use for planting fertilizer?

- How many seeds do we put in each hole?
- What do we do after we put the fertilizer in the hole?

Demonstrate the entire planting process in a few holes



Group Practice

- We ask every group to plant together. Do you know why?
 - It will lower your labor costs and it is fun!
 - It is less work when you work as a group.
 - You will learn from each other and correct mistakes so that you plant well.
 - Planting better leads to better harvests!
- Assign all farmers into groups of four. Call them Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 etc....
- One group at a time, ask each farmer to do one role (1. Dig hole, 2. Put fertilizer, 3. Add soil and seed, 4. Cover).
- Then ask farmers to switch roles, making sure that every farmer does each job correctly
- Ask for another group, until every farmer at your training has tried every job.

Correct the following common mistakes

- Hole or row spacing is too wide
- Too much fertilizer is being added
- Seed and fertilizer are touching
- Holes are not as deep as a writing pen



Convince farmers to follow this planting method

1. Is this hard work? (*Yes!*)
2. Would it be easier to stick with your old method of planting? (Yes)
3. I understand that this is a new technique, and you think it will take you a long time.
4. However, you will soon become much quicker at doing this.
5. Most importantly, you will get better yields by doing this.
6. All research shows that this method will maximize your harvest.
7. Do you want more bags of maize? (*Yes!*)
8. Will you trust me and do this method of planting? (*Yes!*)

Review and Reinforce

- When is the best time to plant?
- When is our land preparation deadline?
- Why should you cover the fertilizer with soil BEFORE adding the seed?
- How far are rows spaced?
- How deep should the planting hole be?
- Why is it important to plant in groups?

-----MOVE TO A DIFFERENT PART OF THE SHAMBA -----

Note: Do not confuse the nursery instructions with the regular planting process

Create a maize nursery

1. One Acre Fund farmers plant a maize nursery at the same time they plant their field.
2. The extra plants from your nursery will fill in the gaps for seeds that do not germinate.
3. Transplanting works *better* than gapping – the new plants will be at the same height as your other maize plants.
4. The nursery can help you harvest one extra bag of maize!

Step1: Prepare your land

1. Measure a piece of land about the size of your kitchen.
2. Make sure land has been ploughed very well.

Step 2: Spacing seeds and rows in your nursery

1. You can put seeds closer in a nursery.
2. Seeds should be about one finger length apart



Farmers First

3. Cut holes about as deep as your finger

Step 3: Planting in your nursery – plant in the same way as normal but do not use fertilizer in the nursery!



Review and reinforce key points:

- How big should your nursery be?
- How far apart will you space your seeds in the nursery?
- How far apart will you space the rows in the nursery?
- How far will you space your seeds in your regular shamba?

Summary and deadline reminders

1. Land Preparation Deadline is _____
2. Inputs will be delivered on _____
3. In order to get inputs you groups must:
 - a. Prepare land – at least one ploughing by the deadline
 - b. Prepare a planting string with correct spacing. If your group has more than 8 or more farmers, you must prepare 2 planting strings.
 - c. Prepare 75 cm spacing sticks.
4. Give everyone *kudos* for participating and learning a new planting technique!