

# HARVEST MORE SOYBEAN WITH 4RS:

## RIGHT SOURCE, RIGHT RATE, RIGHT TIME & RIGHT PLACE

### A 4R-NSP SOYBEAN PRODUCTION PRINCIPLES



You must know how, where and whom to sell your soya beans. Farmers or farmer groups should secure purchase agreements with off-takers prior to cultivating the crop.



Purchase certified seeds, right fertilizers, inoculant, weedicide, pesticides, (when required from an approved input dealer's shop). Consult your AEA/CVAEA for more information on the right inputs.



The right fertilizers for soybean are fertilizers specifically designed for legume crops that contain no nitrogen but are rich in phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). Consult your input dealer on the legume specific fertilizers available. If unavailable, purchase fertilizers that are low in nitrogen (N) but high in phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) such as NPK 11:22:21



Select high level grounds/uplands or well drained soil. Avoid rocky grounds, valleys or low-lying fields prone to water logging.



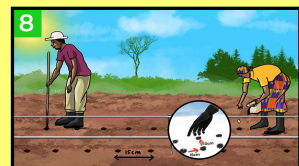
Clear overgrown weeds and shrubs manually with a hoe, cutlass, or an axe or chemically using weedicide.



Prepare soils close to the start of the rainy season by ploughing & harrowing. Preparation can be done manually using a hoe, by animal traction or mechanically by using a tractor to plough the land.



Before planting, dissolve sugar or adhere into water, sprinkle the solution on your soya beans seeds, add inoculant and air dry under a shade following manufacturers instructions so as to ensure good nitrogen fixation & yield.



At planting, use garden lines to prepare planting holes at a spacing of 15cm within a row while maintaining a spacing of 50cm between rows. Plant 2 seeds per hole. Consult your CVAEA/AEA for assistance.



At 2-3 days after planting, spray the planted soybean field with pre-emergence herbicide to prevent weeds from germinating and competing with soybean crops.



Apply one bottle cork of fertilizer to four plant stands at planting or two weeks after planting when there is adequate moisture in the soil. To ensure right placement, make a small hole 5cm away from the seed or each plant stand, apply the fertilizer and cover with soil.



Weed the field at about 5-6 weeks after planting.



Regularly scout for pest and disease infestation by walking through the soybean field in a zig-zag pattern every week and closely inspect plants for indicator symptoms such as perforated leaves, presence of insects or egg clusters on leaves. If signs of pest or disease infestations are observed, consult your CVAEA/AEAS for advice on the right pesticide to use.

### B HARVEST POST HARVEST HANDLING AND MARKETING



Harvest soybean when about 9 out of 10 pods are dry and brown in colour. Avoid leaving the crop in the field for too long as this makes the pods very dry and they may shatter during harvesting. To avoid shattering, it is best to harvest in the morning.



Do not harvest soybean by hand pulling as this may remove the roots which contain nitrogen and contribute to soil fertility. Instead, cut the mature plants at ground level using a cutlass, hoe or sickle.



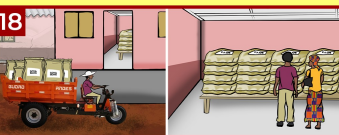
After harvesting, dry the soybean plants in the sun and protect from rain and animals. Preferably dry on a mat, plastic sheet or tarpaulin, or on a raised platform. Once the plants are fully dry, thresh the plants to remove grains from the pods.



Clean the grains by winnowing to remove chaff, dust and other foreign materials to keep grains clean.



Treat the grain before storage to control storage pests. Coating grain with ash or edible oil reduces storage pests. You can also use chemicals. Consult your CVAEA/AEAS for advice.



After treating grains, place them away from the wall. Transport grains to the warehouse for safe keeping, or buying centres. Avoid direct contact of storage bags with the ground.



In order to get good price, sell soya beans through farmer zonal cooperatives to genuine buyers. Check the weight of your soya beans to ensure right amount per quality (kg) sold to get good negotiation price.



Send money to the bank / credit union for safe keeping.