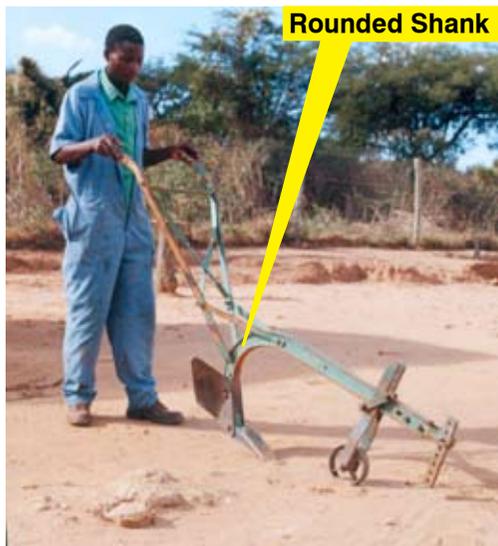


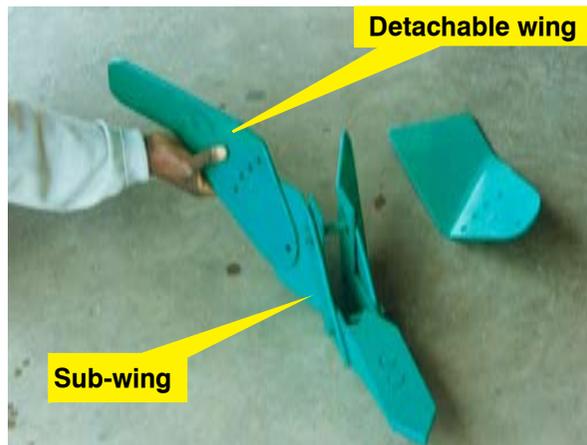
ZNFU – Conservation Farming Unit

Ox CF: Early Ripping and CF Rotations

ZNFU-CFU-GART
Conservation Agriculture Programme
Supported by the Royal Norwegian
Government



The Magoye ripper can be only fitted to plough beams with rounded shanks.

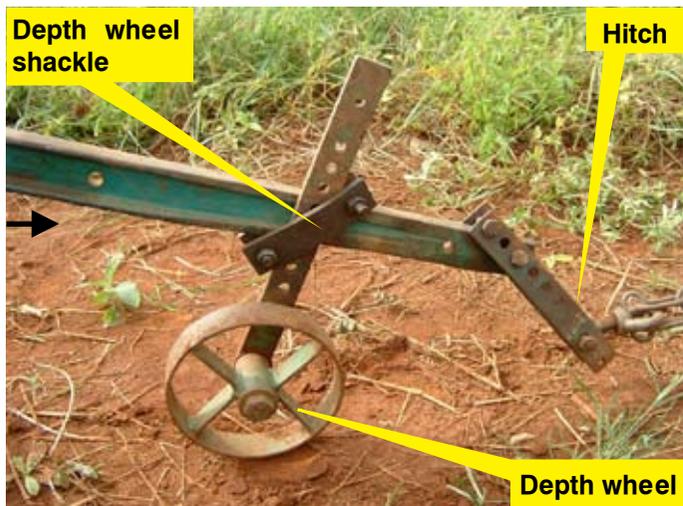


Usually the Magoye Ripper is only available **without** extra detachable wings. If available however, these are used for weeding if you don't have a good cultivator. Read CF Handbook for Ox farmers



Attaching the **sub-wings** to the ripper tine body. Always use the correct size spanner for the job! The tine is reversible when it gets worn.

To rip properly the Trek chain needs to be **3.5 metres long**. Add if necessary.



Make sure **depth wheel** axle is not worn and wheel rotates freely. Check **hitch bolts** are removable for easy adjustment. Large depth wheels are the best.



Good ripping requires experience and skill. Furrows should be 90cms apart and straight. **Practice, observation and adjustment makes perfect.**



Check ripping depth. Furrows should be over 15cms deep.

Farmers with spare land

Rotations

Farmers without spare land

Maize, Cotton, and other cash crops excluding legumes

Mainly Sunnhemp and some strips of Groundnuts or Soya beans or Cowpeas or Guar

Sunnhemp will smother weeds, fix Nitrogen and allow early ripping when the soil is still moist. Red Sunnhemp also makes good fodder for oxen. Black Sunnhemp grows faster but is not good fodder.

Maize, Cotton, and other cash crops

Soya Beans, or Groundnuts or Cowpeas, or Guar

Plant 1/3 of land to legumes to fix Nitrogen, have extra cash and food crops and enable **early ripping in this portion in March.**

Equal size field is planted to Sunnhemp. After planting main crops rip equal area and sow Sunnhemp to allow **early ripping in March** where crops will be planted in the following rainy season



Red Sunnhemp



Early ripping through Sunnhemp. Ripping through rows where Groundnuts have been harvested also makes ripping easier. Cowpea and Soya Beans also allow early ripping



If legumes are not grown, ripping has to be done when soil is hard or after early showers in October or November. Oxen have to be strong, the job is more difficult and tines wear out faster.

Cowpea



Soya



Early ripping through harvested Cowpeas and mature Soya Beans