

ZNFU – Conservation Farming Unit

Hoe CF : Planting Seeds

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



1
Finish Land Prep Before Rains: Being ready to plant immediately after the first heavy rains is the key to high yields.



2
Check Backfilling: If you have backfilled basins properly there should be a small hollow with some extra soil left to cover seeds at planting time.



3
Planting Cotton: Fill basin level. Dry plant cotton anytime after **8th November**. Soil must be dry. Or plant immediately after first heavy rains. Squeeze small pinch of seed into soil at both ends of basin. Seed should remain visible.



4
Planting Maize: Plant **4** seeds across the basins the day after the first big rain that falls **after November 15th**. Finish the same day. Cover with 5cms of soil.



5
Planting Groundnuts: Plant **8 to 10** seeds across the basins the day after first big rain after finishing Maize planting. Finish the same day. Cover with 5cms of soil.

Observe the visible part of the matchbox in the farmer's hand for practical guide on correct planting depth.

Except for Cotton, firm in seeds gently with foot so seed is in good contact with soil.



Planting Sorghum: Plant 10 to 12 seeds across the basins the day after first big rain or after next big rain after finishing Maize planting. Cover with 3cms of soil.



Immediately before planting Soya Bean seeds must be treated with **Inoculant** so they grow strong and green. Get advice on how to mix seed and use Inoculant properly.



Planting Soya Beans Plant: 10 to 12 seeds across the basins. Plant in early December the day after heavy rains and finish the same day. Cover with 3cms of soil.



Planting Cowpea: Plant 7 to 8 seeds across the basins in mid December the day after heavy rain and finish the same day. Cover with 2.5cms of soil.



Planting Sunflower: Plant 2 to 3 seeds at both ends of the basin in mid December and finish the same day. Cover with 2.0cms of soil. Do not plant deep or plants will not emerge.



Planting Green Gram: Plant 7 to 8 seeds across the basins in mid December the day after heavy rain and finish the same day. Cover with 2.0cms of soil.

Always finish planting the same day when the soil is moist enough to achieve rapid germination and emergence. Never plant into hot drying soil. If it doesn't rain for some days the seeds will rot.