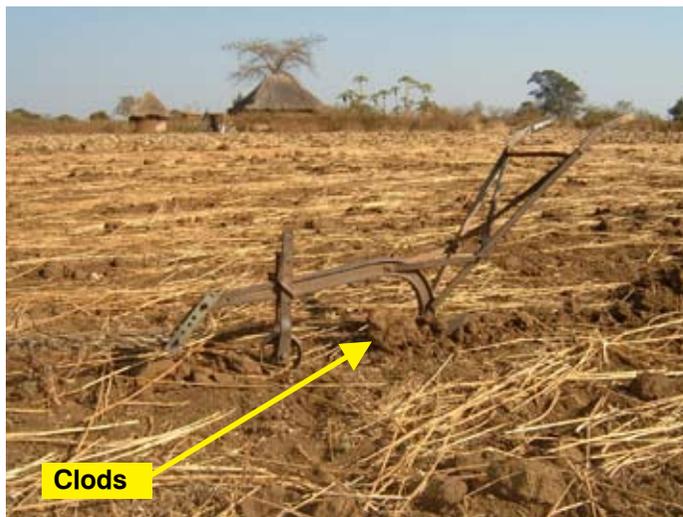


# ZNFU – Conservation Farming Unit

## Ox CF: Basal Dressing and Planting Seeds

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



**Clods:** If you have completed ripping in the dry season on heavy soils and there are **big clods**, you may need to go through the rip lines again after the first showers in October or early November. This job is fast and easy.

**Application Rates Using 100ml Vaseline Jar**

**D Compound:**

- 1 Jar to 20 paces of furrow = 100kg/ha – 2 bags/ha
- 1 Jar to 10 paces of furrow = 200kg/ha – 4 bags/ha

**Lime:**

- 1 Jar to 26 paces of furrow = 100kg/ha – 2bags/ha
- 1 Jar to 13 paces of furrow = 200kg/ha – 4bags/ha

**Manure:**

- 2 double handfuls for each pace of furrow is 4 ox carts/ha



**Measuring:** A 100ml Blue Seal Vaseline jar is a good measure for accurate application of basal fertilisers and lime in the rip furrows.



**Liming:** If you have grown Maize on the same land for many years your **soils will be acid** and crops will suffer even if you use fertiliser. Reduce acidity by applying **Lime**.

Remember that fertiliser is getting **more and more expensive**. Applying it accurately and in the right way is essential to avoid wastage. **When you put sugar in your tea do you spill half onto the table?**



**Rainwater Harvesting:** Notice how the ripped furrows concentrate rain water. This helps rapid germination of seeds and even emergence of the crop.



If you have already applied basal fertilisers well before the rains you will have to cover using a hoe. Some farmers use oxen to **drag a leafy branch to do this.**

**Maize Planting:**



**Spacing:** 20cms or 5 seeds every pace



**Red Sunnhemp:**

Sprinkle lightly **don't cover**



If you have **waited for the first heavy rains**, fertilising, liming, planting seed, and covering with soil can be done in one operation.

**Cotton Planting:**



**Spacing:** Sprinkle lightly down furrow. **Don't cover.**



**Sunflower:**

Only cover with **2cms of soil**



**Never use a Harrow** to cover seeds. The tines are too large and some seeds will be covered too deep and some will be brought to the surface. **Firming** seeds gently into soil with a foot is best.

**Soya Planting:**



**Spacing:** 5cms or 12 to 14 seeds every pace. **The same for Sorghum and Groundnuts**

**Important Rules for Rapid and Even Crop Emergence**

Always plant immediately after heavy rains and finish as soon as possible so there is enough moisture to achieve emergence of crop.

Never plant into drying soil that requires more rain to emerge seed, the next rain may be delayed and seed will swell and rot in the soil.

Plant Maize, Groundnuts, Sorghum after 15th November.

Cotton can be dry planted in early November or after first heavy rains.

Plant all other crops before 15th December after heavy rains.