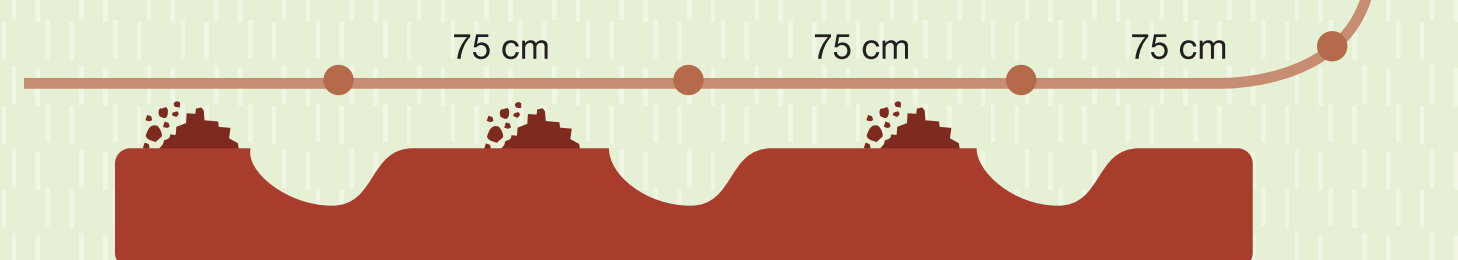


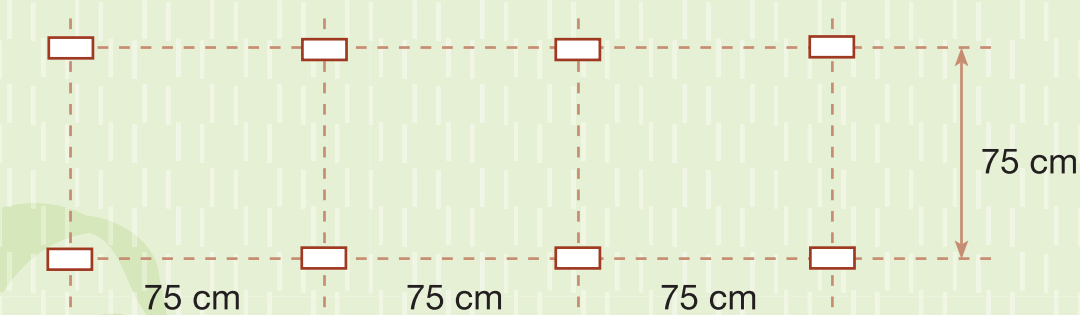
STEP 1:

Field layout

- Spacing between basins may differ among crops
- For maize, basins need to be dug every 75 cm in each line/row.
- Different lines should be separated by 75 cm.
- In dry areas, spacing could go up to 90 cm between basins and rows.
- Tie knots at 75 cm apart on a line to mark basin intervals.
- Layout a line with clearly marked spacing points for basins within the row.
- The next row is laid out 75 cm away using a homemade meter stick.



Plan for measuring and laying out the Basins = 1 Basin



When planting with mechanical Conservation Agriculture planters, the distance between rows is the same as conventional: Maize and Sorghum, 90 cm between rows; Beans, 60 cm between rows.

STEP 2:

Preparing the planting basins [July – September]



The basins are 15 cm long x 8 cm wide x 10 cm deep (if using compost, basins can be 15 cm deep).

STEP 3:

Adding fertilizer and/or compost [September – November]



Fertilizer is banded by hand in the bottom of the basin and covered with soil.

Measured in coca-cola caps (1 litre bottle caps), a minimum of 1 cap up to a maximum of 3 caps is needed per basin for fertilizers 3:2:1, 2:3:2, 6:2:1.

Compost application: Add 1 or 2 handfuls of compost in the basin and cover with soil.

STEP 4:

Planting [September – November]



Maize/beans: Plant 2 - 3 maize seeds or 6 - 9 bean seeds per basin (well spaced, not in a heap) and cover seeds with clod-free soil. Beans can be planted in rows between maize lines.

Sorghum: Plant 8 - 10 seeds of sorghum (pinch between fingers) per basin and cover with clod-free soil.

Winter Wheat: Wheat can be intercropped between maize lines from late April until the end of May.

STEP 5:

Manual weeding and thinning [October – February]

Timely weeding is very important. It must be done as frequently as necessary. Weeding requires extra work, but poor weeding can reduce yield by 50%.



Thinning out to 2 plants per basin 2-3 weeks after germination.

First weeding: As soon as weeds start emerging.

Second weeding: 4-6 weeks after crop emergence.

Proper weeding of your land results in higher crop yields, which means more food for your family.

It is strongly recommended to keep fields free of weeds.

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

Land preparation, Fertilizer application and Planting



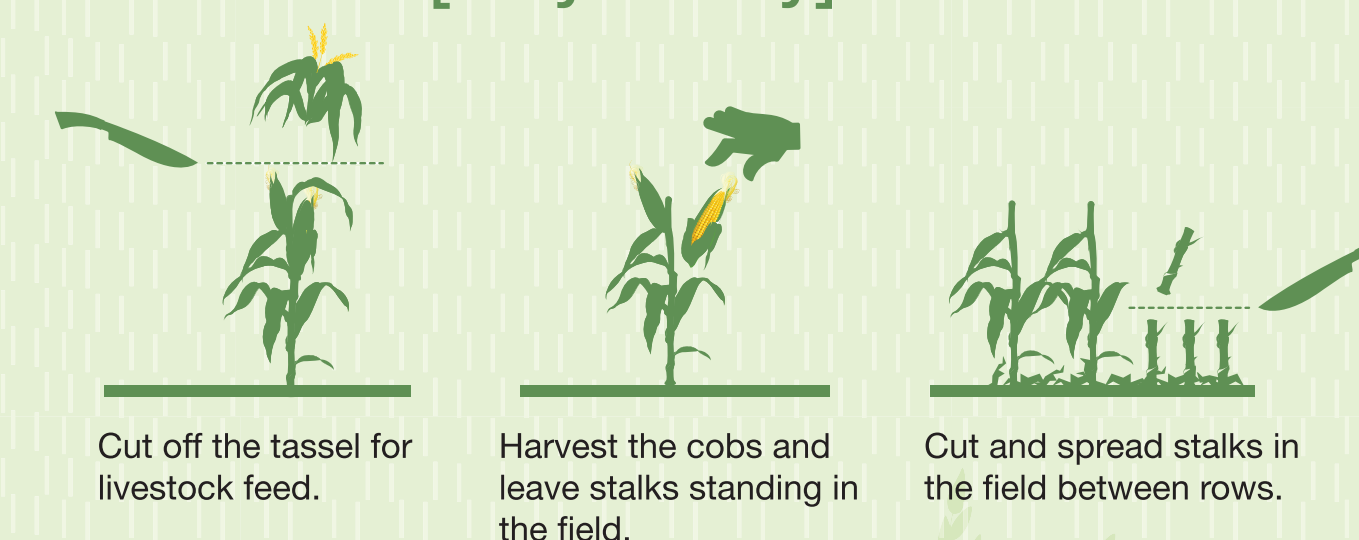
LIVESTOCK INTEGRATION:

Animals should not be allowed to eat the organic matter in the fields. The presence of cattle in the fields also contributes to compact the soil and this should be avoided. 30-50% of the crop residues can be used to stall feed the animals.



STEP 8:

Harvest [May – July]



STEP 7:

Planting cover crops [February – May]



Grazing vetch, Oat and Wheat: Spread Grazing vetch and Oat seeds (February-March) or Wheat (April-May) after tasselling, when plants have already formed cobs.

STEP 6:

Top dressing for maize & sorghum [January – February]



Top dress with Nitrogen (N) fertilizer when maize or sorghum crops have reached knee height (not for beans)

When top-dressing, use a minimum of one (maximum two) heaped coca-cola caps per planting basin.