

Growing soybean and maize in rotation

in partnership with IAR, SG2000, ADPs, NEARLS,
and DGDC–Belgium

Growing soybean and maize in rotation

Year 1: Grow soybean

Year 2: Grow maize on the same plot

Some benefits:

- Soybean brings nitrogen from air into soil as a free source of urea.
- You can obtain good maize yield after soybean with less inorganic fertilizer application due to soil improvement by soybean.
- Growing soybean before maize reduces *striga* infestation in your maize farm.
- Growing soybean and maize ensures food security and diversification (good animal feed, high quality food per family).

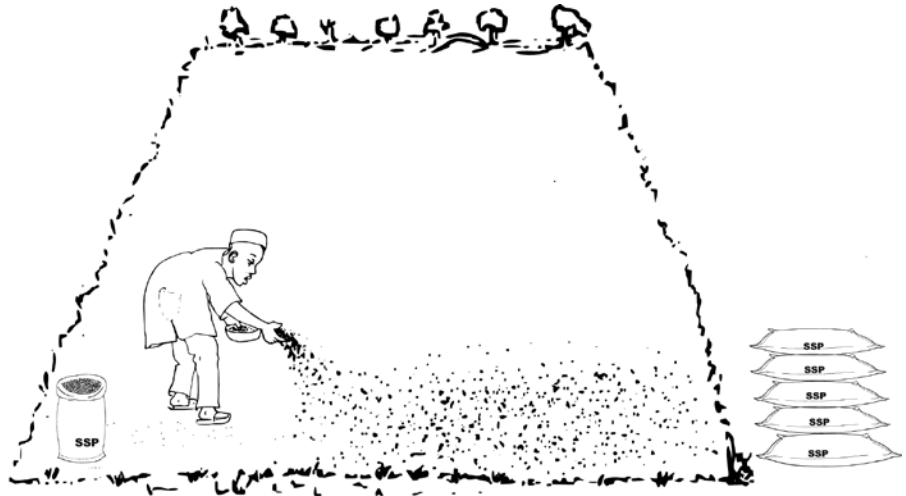
Year 1: Grow soybean

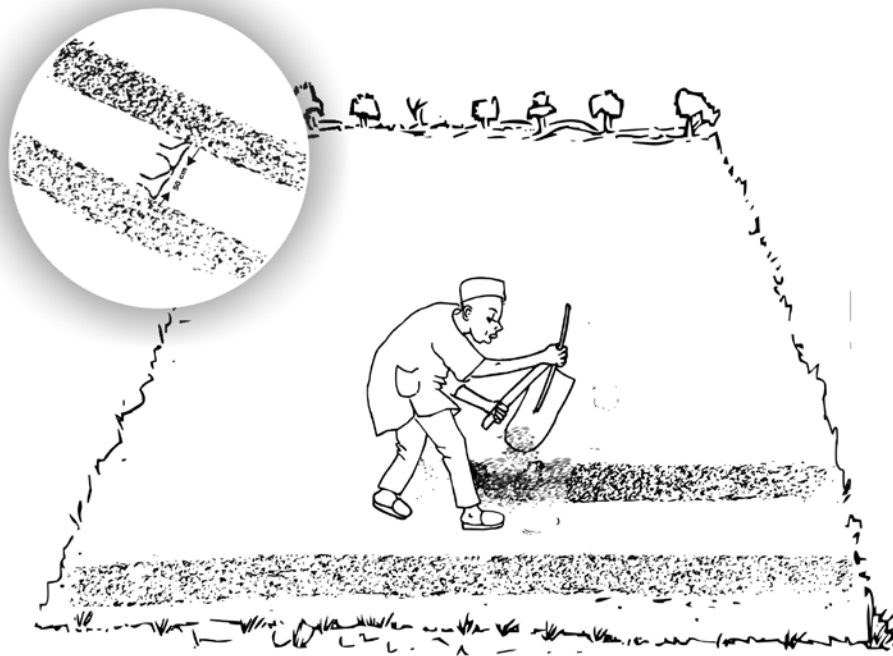




1 Buy seed of improved soybean variety with good haulm and grain yield from a reliable seed company. 40–50 kg Soybean seeds per hectare is required.

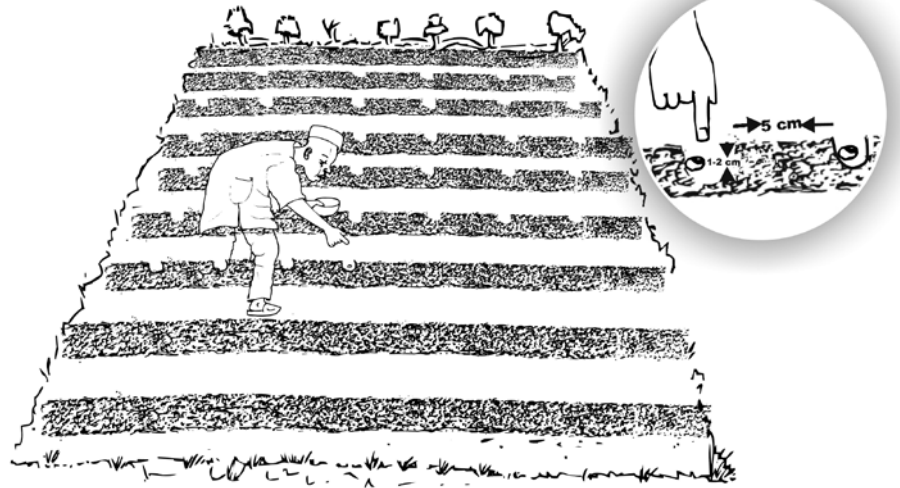
2 Apply fertilizers:
For a farm of a hectare size, broadcast six bags of SSP before ridging.

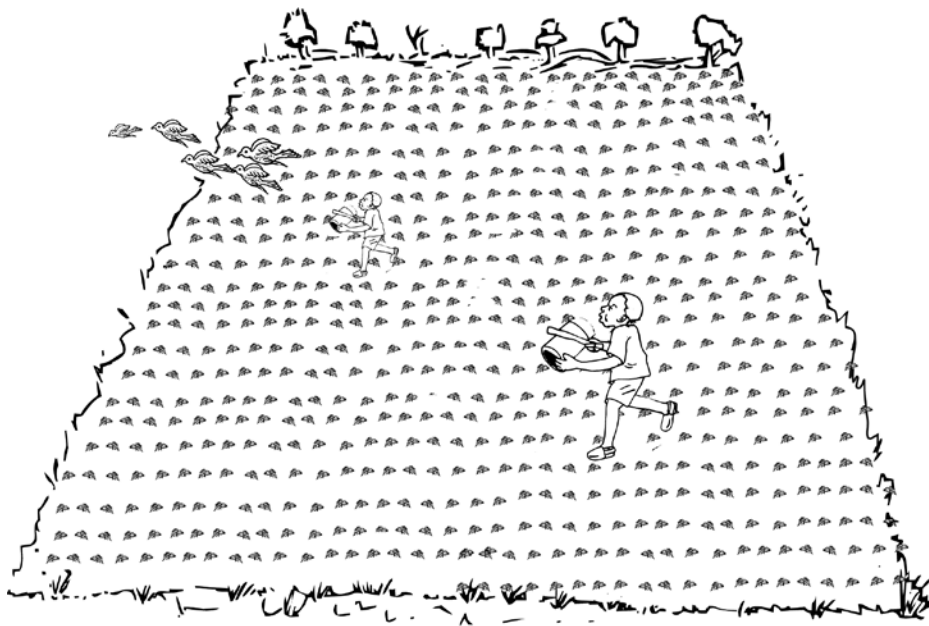




3 Make ridges 50 cm apart either by hand, animal traction or by tractor.

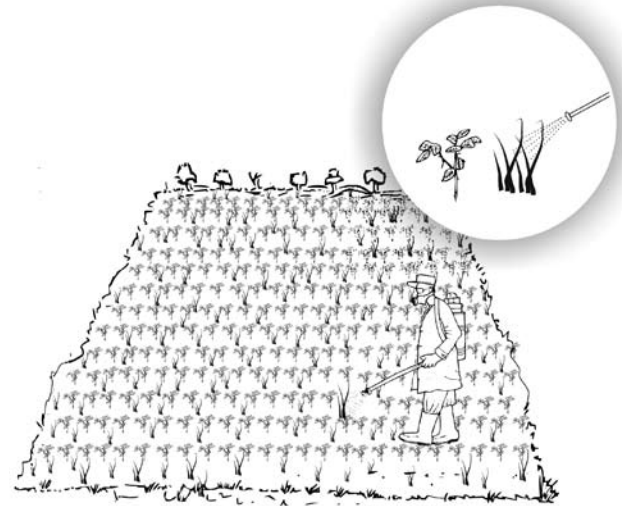
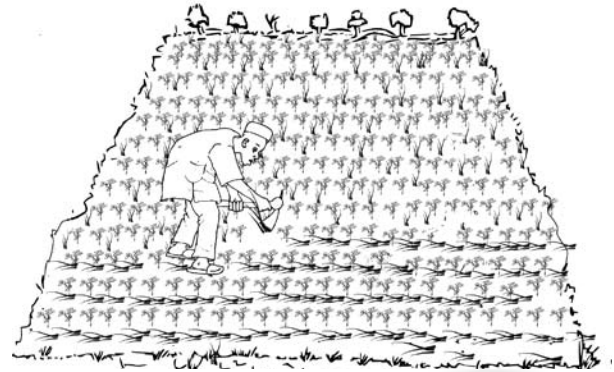
4 Plant after a good rain. Make shallow grooves (1–2 cm deep) on ridges and drill soybean seed (1 seed every 5 cm) and cover lightly with soil.

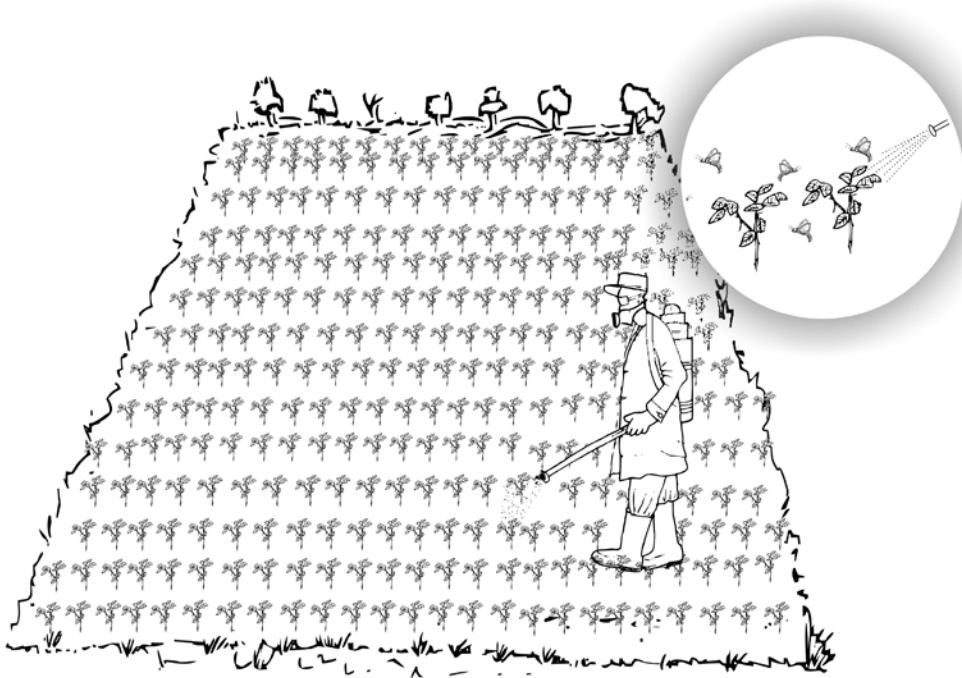




5 Scare birds during the first two weeks after planting.

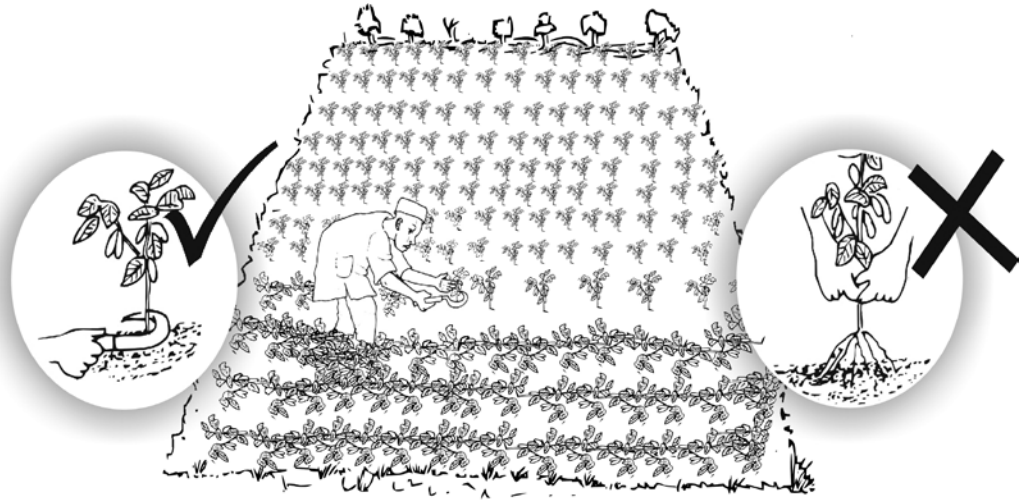
6 Control weed manually or with herbicides recommended for soybean by extension agent.

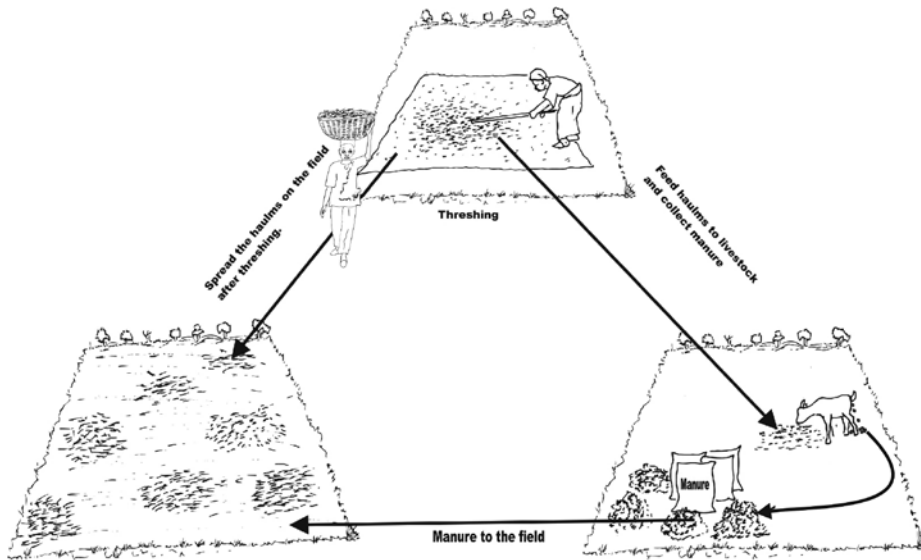




7 When crop is infested by insects, spray with recommended insecticides.

8 Harvest by cutting at ground level with sickle when leaves turn yellow. Do not harvest by uprooting the plants.





9 Thresh soybean on the field. Spread the haulm on the field or feed them to livestock and return the manure to the field.

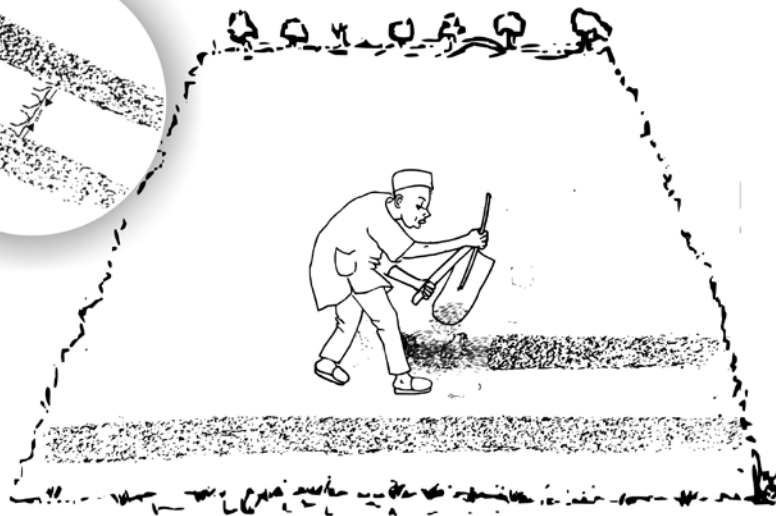
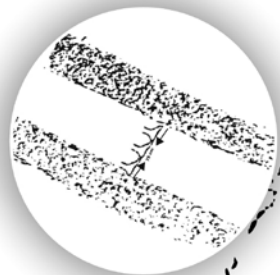
**Year 2: Maize on
the same plot**

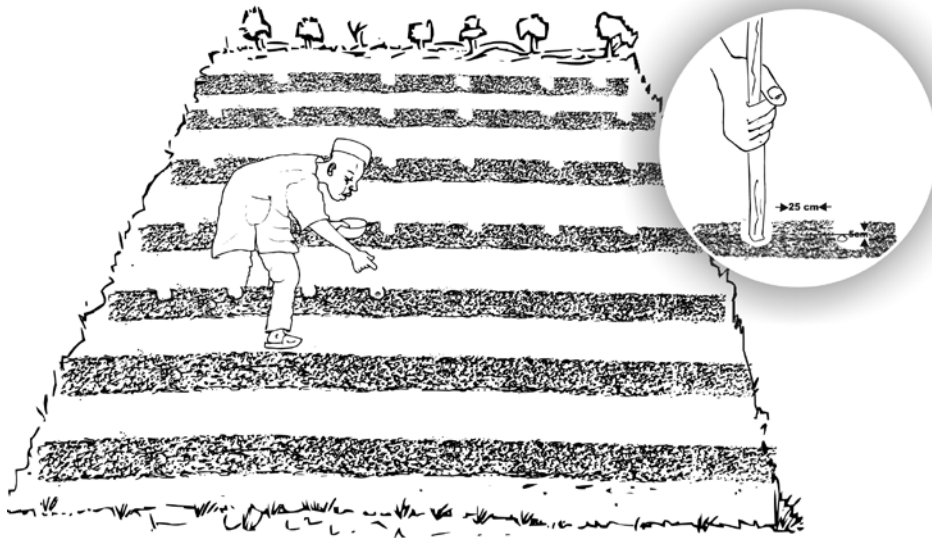




1 Buy improved maize seeds from a reliable seed company.

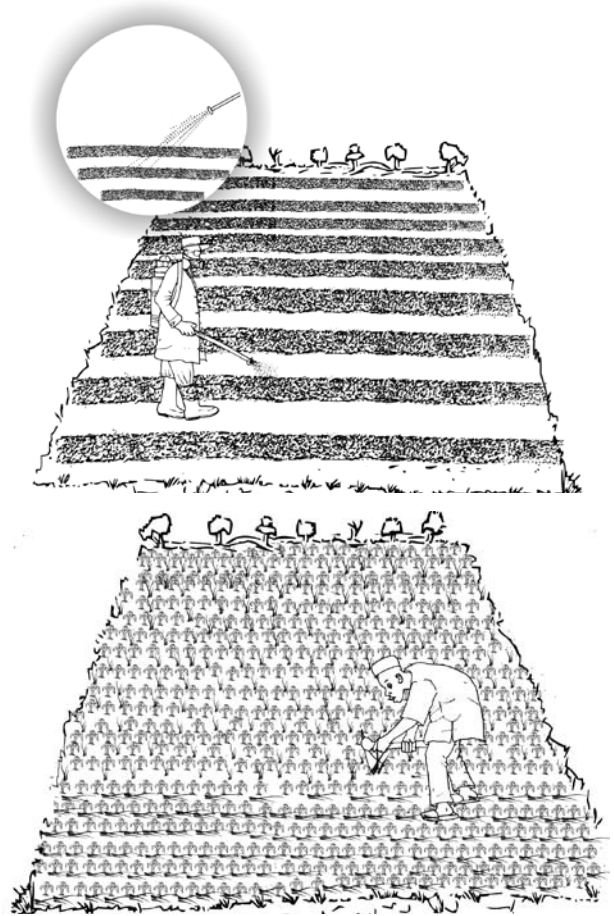
- ② Break old ridges and make new ridges 75 cm apart.

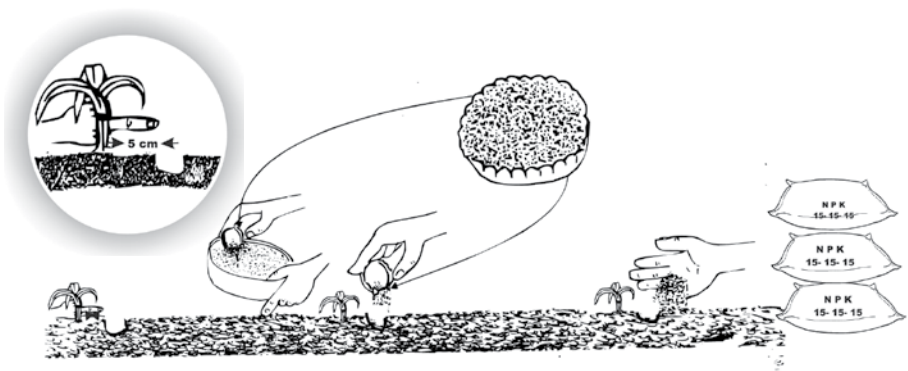




3 Plant after a good rain. Use a stick to make planting hole 5 cm deep at every 25 cm on the ridge. Plant one seed per hole and cover lightly with soil.

4 Control weed by spraying recommended herbicide before maize germination or manually after germination.



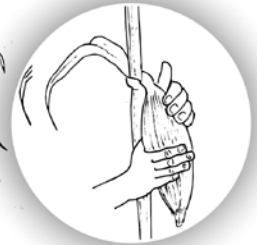
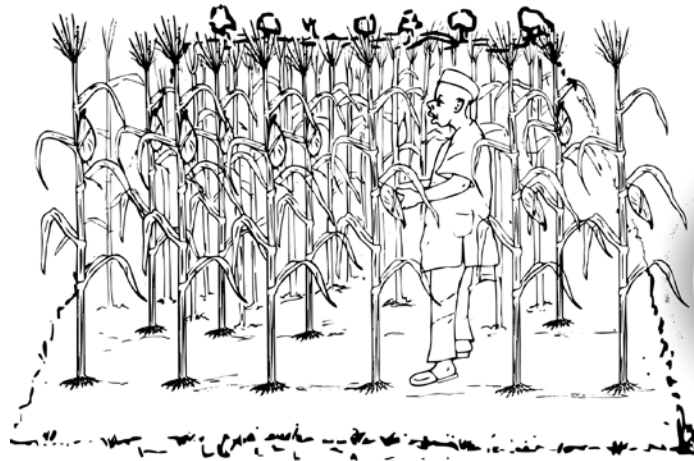


5a Apply 3 bags of NPK when maize is at emergence (7 days after planting). Use a stick to make a hole at 5 cm away from plants. Place the fertilizer in the hole using a coca-cola cap (1 cap full) and cover the hole.



5b Apply 3 bags of Urea when plants are at the knee height. Use a stick to make a hole at 5 cm away from plants. Place the fertilizer in the hole using a coco-cola cap (1 cap full) and cover the hole.

6 Bend cobs downward at maturity to hasten drying and to minimize spoilage.





7 Harvest by dehusking and removing cobs immediately from the field.

8 Dry cobs properly before storage in a dry place.

