



Conservation Farming Steps For Hand-hoe Farmers



CF refers to a number of practices that in combination conserve soil, moisture, fertilizer (organic & synthetic), seeds, energy, time and money. The technique: protects soil from damaging effect of rain splash; reduce run-off & keep more rain in field i.e. rain harvesting; make best use of fertilizer and seeds; allow farmer to finish land preparation well before the rains come so they are ready on time.

Step 1. Keep crop residues, don't burn but cover ground with 50%



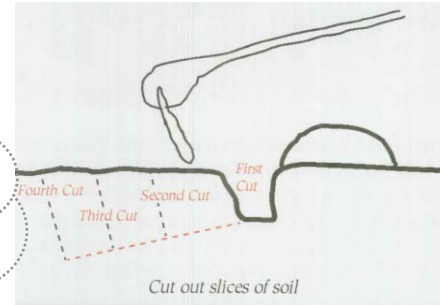
Residues are food for termites. Termites help breakdown the residues hence addition of organic matter & attack crops less.



Minimum soil disturbance

Step 4. Digging basins in correct size

If you save 10 sec digging each basin you will save days of work digging 1 Ha of basins



Basin measurements: 30x15x15cm (Shoe size- No. 8)

Step 2. Get prepared early



Work steadily & prepare immediately after harvest.

Permanent Soil Cover adds organic matter to the soil



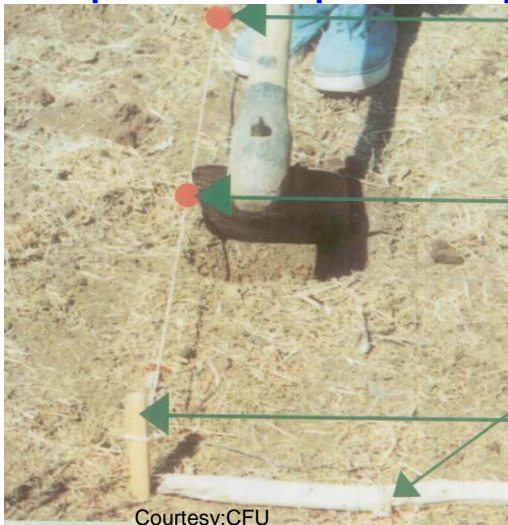
Step 5. Add lime; then manure or compost or fertilizer etc

Step 6. Sow crop seeds



Make sure back filling is correct. Before sowing check the level of soil in each basin. The hollow in the center of basin should be depth of matchbox or 5cms.

Step 3. Mark out permanent planting basins



Bottle tops

90 cm row stick to mark next row

Peg holding rope

Courtesy:CFU

Always plant immediately after heavy rains. Soil must be moist for seed to germinate

Step 7. WEEDING

Don't let the weeds seed. Use slashers, machetes or hoe to cut down the weeds. **IMPORTANT WEED JUST BEFORE OR AFTER HARVESTING.**

Crop Rotation with 30% legumes



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