Residues. Don't burn. Erosion is reduced and run-off is reduced so rainwater is held in field.

Termites. Harvest residues and add organic matter to soil.

Equipment Needed: Chaka hoe, or strong weeding hoe with narrow blade, blue and white fertiliser cups, Teren rope, 90cm row sticks, pegs.

Chaka Hoe: Blade must be at right angle to shaft and firm. Learn how to fit blade and swing hoe properly.

Digging Basins: 90cms across row between centres of basins. 70cms between centres of basins in the row

Depth & Length: 20cms deep to break pans. 30cms long (foot length) to accommodate different crop seeds. Width of Chaka blade.
Early Land Preparation: Start as early as possible in season. Work for 2 hours each morning only. Make sure whole family knows the job.

Finish Land Preparation: Finish by July or August before the hot season when work becomes harder. Be ready for the first planting rains.

Applying Basal Fertilisers: Fertiliser is expensive. Always use No. 7 blue cup. For good yields scatter 2 cups in bottom of basin. For Manure use 1 double handful per basin. Manure is better than fertiliser.

Liming: If you have grown Maize for many years your soils will be acid. Apply 1 cup of lime with the basal. Always use the No 8 white cup. This is 4bags/ha. Read CF Handbooks about liming.

Backfilling Basins: Backfill basins with hoe blade leaving only small hollow about 5cms deep.

Get Ready Early: Coop fertiliser and seed may come late. Buy some for cash so you can plant on time. Don’t rely on Maize alone. What if the rains are poor? What about planting Groundnuts, Soya or Cowpeas?