Leaflet No 3

Conservation Farming Unit
Ox CF: Basal Dressing and Planting Seeds

Applying Manure: If you have manure, spread it along the bottom of the rip lines. 3 double handfuls for each pace of furrow over 1 hectare is about 4 ox carts.

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

Application Rate using 100ml Jar

D Compound
1 Jar to 10 paces of furrow = 4 bags/ha

Lime
1 Jar to 13 paces of furrow = 4 bags

Fertilizer is expensive use it efficiently to achieve the best results.

Planting dates depend on rainfall
Cotton not before Nov 8th
Maize, Sorghum G’nuts after Nov 15th
All other crops by Dec 15th

Some farmers prefer to apply Lime, Fertilizer and sow seed and cover all at the same time.

If so, each person in the planting team needs to know what to do.

If you rip twice apply after second ripping

Depression remains after covering with hoe
Maize Spacing:  spacings 20cms or 5 seeds every pace.

Cotton Spacing:  Spacing:  20cms 4 to 5 seeds. Don’t cover.

Soya Spacing:  Spacing:  5cms or 12 to 14 seeds every pace. The same for Sorghum and Groundnuts. Remember Seed has to be first treated with inoculate.

Sunflower:  Only cover with 2cms of soil.

Covering seed with hoes - smaller areas produces best results.

Covering seed with light branch - larger areas.

Don’t use spike harrows or cultivators to cover seed as they cause too much disturbance. Some seed will be left on surface and some buried too deep.