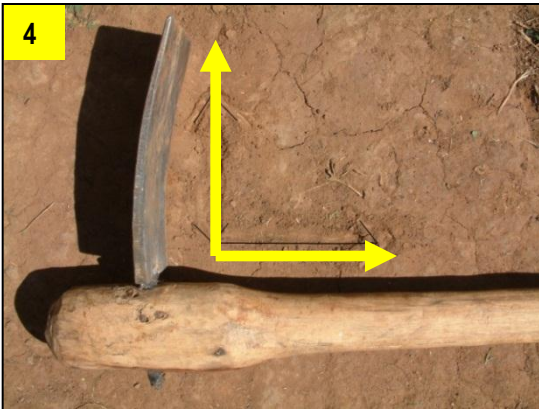


# ZNFU – Conservation Farming Unit

## Hoe CF: Land Preparation and Basal Dressing



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



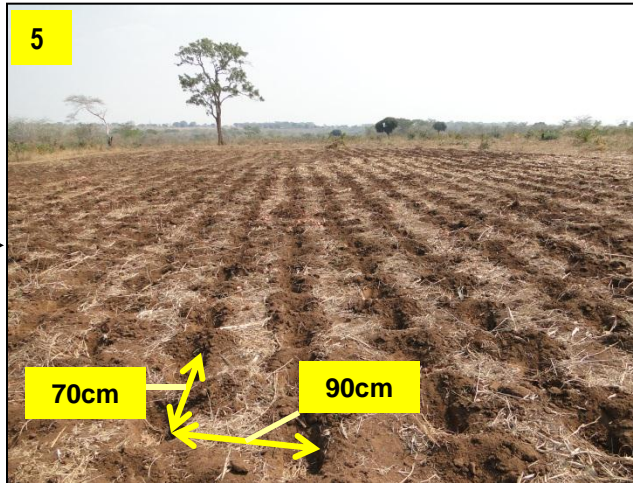
**Chaka Hoe:** Blade must be at right angle to shaft and firm. Learn how to fit blade and swing hoe properly.



**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.



**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.





**7**  
**Early Land Preparation:** Start as early as possible in season. Work for **2 hours** each morning only. Make sure whole family knows the job.



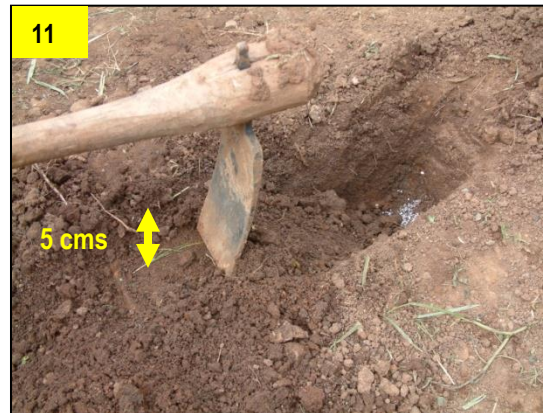
**8**  
**Finish Land Preparation:** Finish by July or August before the hot season when work becomes harder. Be ready for the first planting rains.



**9**  
**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.



**10**  
**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.



**11**  
**Backfilling Basins:** Backfill basins with hoe blade leaving only small hollow about **5cms deep**.



**12** **Plan ahead for good results**  
**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?