**CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE**

**Land preparation, Fertilizer application and Planting**

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**STEP 1:**
**Field layout**
- Spacing between basins may differ among crops.
- For maize, basins need to be dug every 75 cm in each line/row.
- Different lines should be spaced by 75 cm.
- In dry areas, spacing could go up to 90 cm between basins and rows.
- Tie knots at 75 cm apart on a line to mark basin intervals.
- Layout a line with clearly marked spacing points for basins within the row.
- The next row is laid out 75 cm away using a homemade meter stick.

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**PLAN FOR MEASURING AND LAYING OUT THE BASINS**
- 1 Basin

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**STEP 2:**
**Preparing the planting basins**
- [July – September]

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**STEP 3:**
**Adding fertilizer and/or compost**
- [September – November]

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**STEP 4:**
**Planting**
- [September – November]

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**STEP 5:**
**Manual weeding and thinning**
- [October – February]

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**STEP 6:**
**Top dressing for maize & sorghum**
- [January – February]

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**STEP 7:**
**Planting cover crops**
- [February – May]

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**STEP 8:**
**Harvest**
- [May – July]

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**LIVESTOCK INTEGRATION:**
Animals should not be allowed to eat the organic matter in the fields. The presence of cattle in the fields also contributes to compact the soil and this should be avoided. 30-50% of the crop residues can be used to feed the animals.

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