

Commercial Maize Production in Nigeria: The Preparation and Prospects.

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OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Starting maize production in Nigeria
- The “4 Ps” of the prospects of maize production
- Constraints of Maize production



MAIZE

INTRODUCTION

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- Maize (*Zea mays subs. mays* L) is a monocotyledonous crop and is also referred to as corn in some places.
 - It ranks third in the world as a crop that serves as a source of energy and food security.
 - It thrives well on any well drained sandy loam or loamy soil.



STARTING MAIZE PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA




Requirements for a successful maize production farm:

- Preparation of the land
- Sowing
- Cleaning and other tasks
- Harvest
- Post-harvest
- Storage and conservation of seed for the next growing season
- Shelling and selection of the seed-grain
- Marketing

Time of Planting

Early Season :

- In the forest zone, the optimum planting date is between 15 March and 1 April although planting could be done as soon as rainfall becomes steady.
- In the derived savannah zone, planting could still be done as late as May and June, depending on rainfall.



- In the Southern Guinea Savannah zone, planting could still be done as late as May and June depending on rainfall.

- Late Season

Late season planting of maize is recommended only for areas where rainfall is likely to be adequate


Seed Rate and Plant Population

SEED RATE

- (i) 25 kg/ha for open pollinated varieties
- (ii) 15 kg/ha for Hybrids
- (iii) 15 kg for popcorn.

PLANT POPULATION

- (i) Open-Pollinated/Popcorn varieties: Hand planted, 90 cm x 40 cm, 2 plants/stand to give 55,555 plants/ha.
- (ii) Hybrids: Hand planted, 90 cm x 40 cm, 2 plants/stand to give 55,555 plant/ha.



(iii) Mechanical Planting: (Any Variety)
75 cm x 25 cm , 1 plant/stand to given 53,555
plants/ha or 90 cm x 20 cm, 1 plant/stand giving
55,555 plants/ha. There should be no thinning or
supplying except in very bad cases.

N.B. Always use certified seeds of recommended
varieties for good crop establishment.

Fertilizer rate and time of application

OPEN-POLLINATED VARIETIES

- Forest fallows 10 years or more. Apply 200 kg (4 bags) of NPK 25-10-10 per hectare at planting.
- Forest fallows less than 10 years, soils under savanna vegetation and soils under continuous cropping: Apply 300 kg (6 bags) of NPK 25:10:10 and 100 kg (2 bags) of Single Super-phosphate per/ha at planting.

In the Savanna zone, apply 400 kg (8 bags) of 25:10:10, 100 kg (2 bags) of Single Superphosphate and 3 to 5 kg of Zinc Sulphate per/ha at planting.

HYBRIDS

For every high yields, apply 600 kg (12 bags) of 25:10:10 per hectare in two splits at planting (200 kg) and 5 to 6 weeks after planting (400 kg), to give 150 kg N, 60 kg P₂O₅ and 60 kg K₂O per hectare.



LATE SEASON

Fertilizer rate and time of application are the same as for early season.

CAUTION

It is ideal to carry out soil testing before any fertilizer application.


Weed, Disease and Pest Control

HAND WEEDING

Carry out the first weeding 14–21 days after planting or as soon as necessary. A second weeding may be done if necessary before the second application of fertilizer.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION

Apply Atrazine pre-emergence at the rate of 3 kg ai/ha on a clean seed bed.



- Important diseases of maize are Maize Streak Virus, Downy Mildew, and Highland Blight among others. Plant early to minimize attack by diseases.



THE “4 Ps” OF THE PROSPECTS OF MAIZE PRODUCTION

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- There is high demand for maize all over the world.

The “4 Ps” of the prospects maize production:

- **P**roduct
- **P**ricing
- **P**romotion
- **P**lacement

The “4 Ps” of the prospects maize production

Product


Pricing

Promotion

Placement




CONSTRAINTS OF MAIZE PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA

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- Healthy and enough planting materials
 - High cost of farm equipments.
 - Storage facilities.
 - Market forces
 - Technical know-how



CONCLUSION

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- There is a wide door thrown open in post-harvest production of maize. More value can be added to maize and this can earn investors a fair share in the prospects of maize production.



Thanks for Listening