



### 6. Planting

It is a bad practice to use the stake to open the soil during planting. Open the soil with a cutlass, a trowel or a hoe before inserting the cassava stake.

Cassava can be planted on mounds, ridges or on flat.



Planting on Ridges



Planting on Flats



Planting on Mounds



Open the soil with a cutlass or a hoe before inserting the cassava stake



Bad practice

## ⇒ Cassava Stem Care & Management



### 1. Stem Selection

Good sprouting, plant establishment density and vigorous growth and eventual increase in yield in cassava production, start with the proper handling of the stems during planting.

#### Selecting good stems

Select only:-

- Matured stems that are between 10 – 16 months
- Clean stems that are free from pests and diseases
- Stems without physical damage



### 2. Stem Harvesting

- Cut your vigorous stems at 25-30cm from ground level
- Cut with sharp cutlass or other sharp farm implements
- Trim off the top after about 100 -120cm depending on variety



### 3. Collection of stems

Physical damages to stems start occurring from the harvesting point. So:

- Be careful when assembling the stems after cutting so as not to cause bruises on the stem and nodes.
- Painstakingly arrange stems in bundles (of 50 sticks each) and carefully tie up with sisal rope or another soft rope.
- Don't tie them up too strongly as this may cause bruises to the nodes.



### 4. Transportation of cassava stems

Cassava stems are best transported in tied bundle of 50 sticks or cut into planting stakes that are tied up in 25-30 stakes packs. These stakes may also be transported inside bags (preferably polyethylene) as sachet.

When packaged in these forms transportation is either on head, vehicular or bicycle to the farm for planting or to a place of storage.



### 5. Storage of cassava Stems and Stakes

Cassava stems are harvested for 2 main purposes:

1. For planting on other fields
2. or sale in market places

For whatever purpose, if stems are not to be used immediately, they should be stored under a shade as sticks standing or in polybags to avoid sun drying. You may prune extra leaves from shrubs to cover the stems under shade.



#### 5a Storing as Sticks

- Keep the sticks standing under shade.
- In extreme dry environment, dig shallow holes and stand the sticks inside.
- Apply water every other day.
- Don't store your stems for more than 2 weeks for a better result.

#### 5b. Storing as Stakes

- Cut the sticks in stakes of about 20-25cm long with 5-10 nodes.
- Put in perforated container and dip inside Benlate or and Demosan (fungicide).
- Carefully put stems inside nylon bags

- Store under shade
- Plant as soon as the nodes are broken and sprouting initiated (1-2 weeks after packaging)

#### From Sticks to Stakes

- Be very careful when cutting your Sticks into Stakes.
- Select hardwoods or semi- hardwoods and
- Cut them with the sharp instrument/equipment.



#### Treating your stakes against insects & fungus

Put the stakes in a basket and dip into an insecticide or fungicide solution for about 10-15 minutes. Remove and allow solution to drip off the stakes. You may now plant or put in a transparent nylon for pre-sprouting as the case may be.

