

# Cassava<sup>+</sup> Improved Fertilizers

## What is NPKS?

The new NPKS is a compound fertilizer containing 3.5% Nitrogen, 13% Phosphorous, 34% Potassium and 4.5 % Sulfur. The new blend is specifically for cassava. It contains the nutrients which stimulate healthy cassava growth and high yields.

## Why use NPKS together with Urea in Cassava?

Cassava has a high demand for potassium and the NPKS contains more potassium than the regular NPK. In addition, Nigeria soils are low in sulfur. Sulfur is also needed by cassava for good growth. The new NPKS contains sulfur. NPKS contains less nitrogen than the regular NPK. It therefore does not supply enough nitrogen for a healthy growth of the cassava. Therefore, the farmer should also provide urea to his cassava.



⇒ Fertilizer in cassava production

# ➔ Fertilizer in cassava production

## How to use **NPKS** and **Urea** in Cassava?

- The **basic** guidelines for Cassava fertilizer application are:
- Use 200 kg **NPKS** per hectare or 20 grams per plant (= one full matchbox)
- Use 120 kg Urea per hectare or 12 grams per plant (= one water bottle top)

## **NPKS** and **Urea** can be broadcast using the following guidelines:

- Apply uniformly on the ground around each cassava plants
- Ensure the right quantity by taking at least a matchbox full of **NPKS** per plant.
- Wear gloves and protective clothing
- Avoid placing the fertilizer too close to the plant
- Avoid placing the fertilizer on any exposed roots or tubers

## Alternatively, **NPKS** and **Urea** can be applied in a ring using the following guidelines:

- Prepare a ring 6 cm deep and 10 cm away from the cassava stem
- Take a match box full of fertilizer
- Spread uniformly within the ring
- Avoid any contact between fertilizer and any part of the plant
- Wear protective clothing and gloves



Ring Placement

## Alternatively, **NPKS** and **Urea** can be applied in row or band using the following guidelines:

- Prepare lines or bands 6 cm deep and 10 cm away from the cassava stem
- Take a match box full of **NPKS** and apply uniformly within the band
- The bands should be on both sides of the rows of cassava
- Wear protective clothing and gloves
- Ensure the fertilizer does not fall on leaves, exposed roots or stems



Row or Band Placement

## When to use **NPKS** and **Urea** in Cassava?

- **NPKS** is applied 3-4 weeks after planting of a cassava field
- **At 3-4 weeks after planting** the young cassava roots are well developed to absorb nutrients
- **Urea** is applied 14-16 weeks after planting
- **At 14-16 weeks after planting the cassava plant canopy is well developed to manufacture food**
- Timing is important as too early use can lead to the fertilizer being washed away by rains and too late application may affect root development
- Apply when soils have enough moisture but are not too wet
- Do not apply when soils are too dry
- Do not apply **NPKS** to crops other than root crops unless you top dress with UREA as it is low in nitrogen and will give poor response to seasonal crops
- Apply adequate quantities of fertilizer to avoid under-dosing

## How to maintain the quality of **NPKS** and **Urea**?

- Purchase your fertilizer from reputed suppliers or agro-dealers
- Store the fertilizer in dry, cool well aerated rooms
- Place a raised wooden pallet on the floor to avoid fertilizers getting into contact with cold cemented floor
- The fertilizer store should be well secured

## How to identify good sales points of **NPKS**?

- The supplier should have full information on **NPKS** and provide this information to the farmers
- This should be clearly displayed on the fertilizer bag
- Ask agro-dealer type and application rates of fertilizer for your crop before buying
- Buy appropriate volume: **NPKS** comes in 50 and 10 kg bags