

## Appendix E: Messages sent by KALRO

Examples of messages received by farmers as part of the e-extension:<sup>1</sup>

- Test your soils in the laboratory every 4 years so that you know the right type and amount of fertilizer to apply.
- If soil is acidic (pH less than 5.5), apply recommended rate of agricultural lime at least 30 days before planting. Enquiries: Tel. XXXXXX
- Prepare land early, ready for planting at onset of rains. Buy recommended certified maize and legume seed from approved agricultural supply dealers.
- Crops planted in rows are easier to weed & apply fertilizer. Plant seed maize in rows 2.5 feet (75 cm) apart and holes 1 foot (30cm) apart along the rows. Plant 1 and 2 seeds in alternate holes –10kg seed/acre.
- Plant legumes seeds 10 cm apart in middle of two maize rows OR rotate maize fields with legumes in the next season to improve soil fertility. Plant sole legume at 40-50cm between rows and 10-15cm between seeds-30-40kg seed/acre, depending on variety.
- Combined use of chemical fertilizers, manure, compost and crop residues increase harvests and improve soils. At planting, apply 1 flat soda bottle-cap DAP or heaped soda bottle-cap Mavuno per hole of maize. Cover with little soil to ensure fertilizers DO NOT touch and burn seed.
- If your farm has striga weed (Kayongo), intercrop or rotate striga-tolerant maize (KSTP94) with soya bean, groundnuts or desmodium, apply manure and uproot Kayongo before it flowers and burn it.
- Make sure your farm has no weeds by weeding well and in good time. If plants in a hole are many, reduce to one plant in every hole when weeding.
- Put fertilizer (top dress) of CAN or Mavuno top-dress size of one bottle top of FANTA soda on every maize plant three weeks or four after planting. Make sure fertilizer does not get in contact with the plant and covered with soil. Put fertilizer when there is moisture in the soil.

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<sup>1</sup> Messages were created and sent by KALRO in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture.