

ZNFU – Conservation Farming Unit

How to Plant and Look After Jatropha Hedges

ZNFU-CFU-GART
Conservation Agriculture Programme
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Government



Plant Jatropha hedges around the boundaries of your fields to keep out livestock and control your land!



The plants are not eaten by cattle and goats.



Dig or rip furrow. Sow single seeds 20cms apart in mid December after heavy rains. Cover with soil.



This is the correct spacing for a hedge. Emergence takes 6 to 12 days.



Where there are gaps plant more seed as soon as possible. Save seed for this purpose.



Top the young seedlings when they are 30cms tall to encourage branching.



Keep the young hedges free of weeds.



In the first dry season after planting cut all branches to below waist height in June.



If plants are pruned in June fruits will start to ripen in next March and not February when its still raining.



Jatropha fruits go black and fall to the ground when ripe. If fruits ripen and drop in February they have to be spread out on the khonde to dry.



The oil from Jatropha seed has many uses, the most important being for bio-diesel. Find out about the market for seed from CFU staff. Until market is sure only plant it as hedge to control livestock.

Remember seeds and oil are poisonous, warn children