

Performance and Spacing

The planter performance in terms of uniformity of in-row plant spacing and emergence is comparable to that of the imported planters. When used properly with the correct seed grade, performance can even be better.

The planter can plant 1hectare in 4hours depending on various factors. One farmer planted about 30ha in two weeks with just two pairs of oxen. The row spacing is 75 or 90cm depending on the yoke used. The in-row plant spacing is changed by changing seed plate.



A satisfied customer

Benefits

- ◆ Better yields due to timely planting, correct plant populations and better fertilizer placement.
- ◆ Enables the expansion of land under cropping.
- ◆ Labour saving
- ◆ Affordable
- ◆ Reliable
- ◆ User friendly and cheap to maintain
- ◆ Promotes local industry creating employment and saving foreign currency



The Magoye CF Planter

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The Magoye CF Planter — ‘Mechanizing smallholder conservation farming’

The Magoye CF Planter

This planter was developed to address the unavailability of affordable locally produced conservation farming (CF) planters. It is a versatile tool that can also be used as a conservation tillage implement for ripping and strip tillage.

The different options give the farmers flexibility and enables them to combine tillage, planting and fertilizer application in one operation saving labour and time. The planter was designed to be simple and to use locally available material so that it is affordable and cheap to maintain.



A 14ha field planted with the Magoye CF planter

Uses

Ripping

The implement features a ripper tine for breaking compacted soil or just loosening the soil. The new ripper is narrower than that of other animal drawn rippers like the Magoye Ripper which makes it have deeper soil penetration without disturbing the soil too much in line with CA requirements. It does not use bolts and nuts making it cost a fraction of the Magoye ripper tines which are very expensive.



The Ripper Tine

Strip tillage

Sub-surface wings can be added to the tine to increase the width of soil loosening when the soil is moist. Most of the farmers used the Magoye Ripper in moist soil in which it is ineffective.



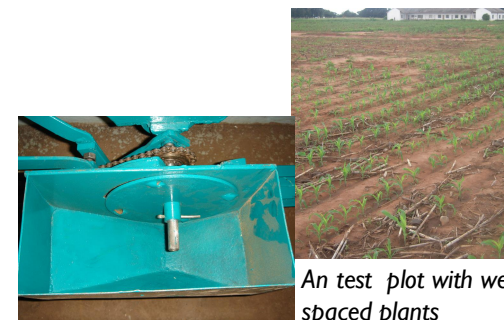
The Strip Tillage Tool

Strip tillage is designed for moist soil making it a lighter operation than ripping, achieves deeper soil loosening and there is less wear of tines.

Planting

The planter can be used for zero-tillage planting where the tine opens a shallow planting furrow or can be used for planting combined with deep strip tillage.

It uses vertically rotating seed plates which enables a simple design that is easy to manufacture in local workshops, is reliable and relatively cheaper.



The seed plate

An test plot with well spaced plants

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