FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Bambara groundnut

Vigna subterranea

Family: Fabaceae

Categories

Legumes & Pulses

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Quick stats

Family	Fabaceae
Typical harvest	0.8 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	4
Seasons	0

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	100-150
Main uses	Pulse; food security
Pollination	self
Origin and where it grows	Sub-Saharan Africa

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	22 - 30 °C
Rainfall	500 - 900 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1600 m
Best pH	5.5 - 6.8
Soil type	Sandy loam; light soils
Row spacing	60 cm
Plant spacing	30 cm
Planting depth	4 cm
Seed rate	50 kg/ha

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 100-150 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for pulse; food security.

Pollination: Mainly self; healthy flowers and pollinators improve fruit set.

Where it grows: Sub-Saharan Africa. Grouped under: Legumes & Pulses.

Best climate: 22 - 30 °C; 500 - 900 mm/yr; up to about 1600 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 5.5 - 6.8; sandy loam; light soils.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Direct seed into warm, moist soil; inoculate with compatible rhizobia where available; keep weed-free during early growth.
Transplanting	Not transplanted; direct seeding recommended.
Irrigation	Moderate water demand; ensure moisture at flowering and pod set; avoid waterlogging.
Fertigation	Minimal N required due to fixation; supplement P and K on poor soils.
Pest scouting	Scout weekly for aphids, beetles, and foliar diseases; use sanitation and rotation.
Pruning and training	Not required; low bush habit.
Harvest	Harvest when pods are fully filled and leaves begin yellowing; dry pods adequately before shelling.
Postharvest	Dry to safe moisture; store in airtight containers; control bruchids if present.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	DAP 18-46-0	60 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Band or place below seed; avoid seed burn

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
P?O?	Basal	25	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	20	kg/ha
N	Topdress	0	kg/ha

Field images






Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local Bambara	KE	130	Drought tolerant

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Basal	DAP 18-46-0	60	Reduce if soil P is high

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Aphids	pest		Spot sprays; natural enemies
Bruchids (storage)	pest		Proper drying; hermetic storage; insecticidal dusts where appropriate
Leaf spots	disease		Rotation; sanitation; avoid overhead irrigation
Root rots	disease		Improve drainage; avoid planting in poorly drained fields

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
rainfed smallholder	0.8	0.4	1.5	

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Eastern (semi-arid pockets)	N/A
KE	Western	N/A
TZ	Central semi-arid	N/A
UG	Northern	N/A