

# Want to increase your maize yield?

## Summary

Mr. and Mrs. Mensah from Ghana made an amazing discovery intercropping maize-cowpea. By planting cowpea 10 days before maize productivity of both crops has increased. Maize yields have increased by 11%. Their income also increased from the sale of cowpea. It is believed that the maize benefited from nitrogen fixed in the soil at the time the nutrient was needed.

## Benefits

- Increased crop productivity
- Healthy soils
- Well spaced harvesting periods enable farmers to dry each crop properly
- No additional labour required
- No nitrogen top dressing required which reduces cost

### Step 1

Plant cowpea 10 days before maize in alternative rows. Cowpea: 80cm by 20cm; Maize: 80cm by 40cm; plant erect and semi erect cowpea varieties.

### Step 2

Apply NPK fertilizer to maize in poor soils. Cowpea may also benefit from fertilizer. No top-dressing with nitrogen fertilizer is required.

### Step 3

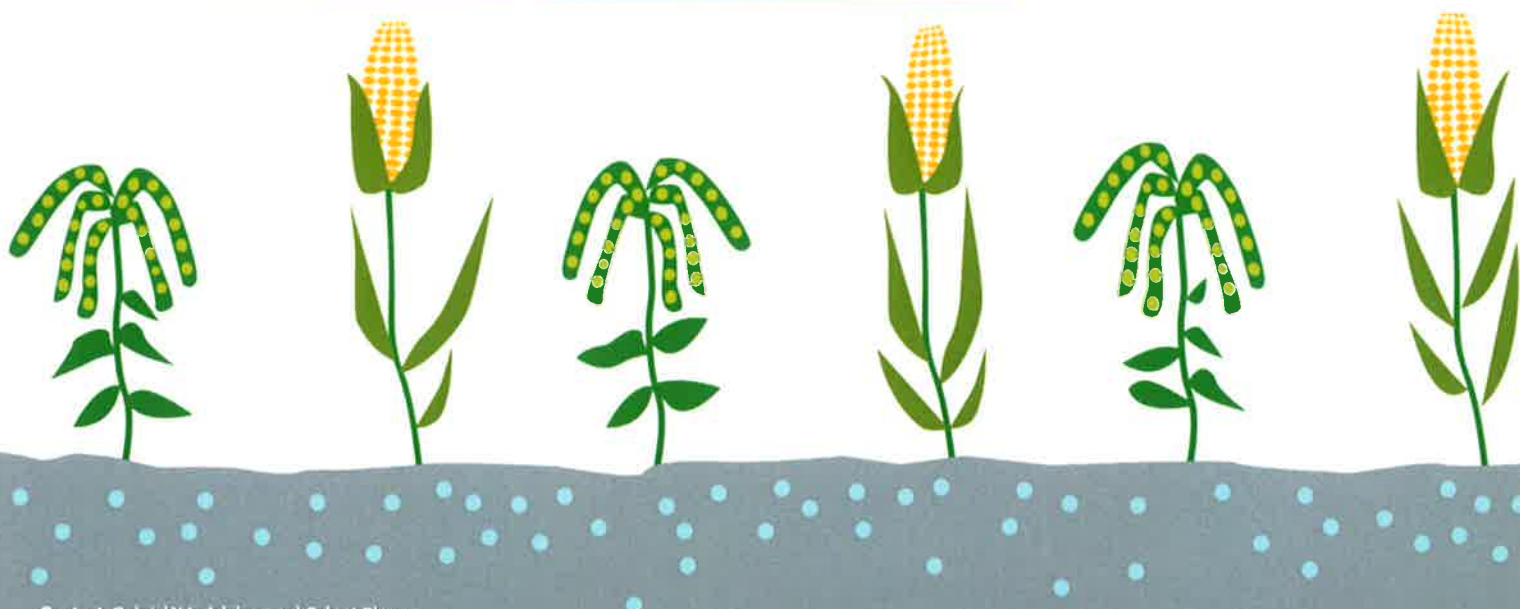
Control insect pests in cowpeas at 10-day intervals starting from 10-days after planting. The first insecticide spray may also control stem borers in maize as well.

### Step 4

Timely weeding is required. Remember it is cheaper to control weeds at an early stage.

### Step 5

For healthy cropping system rotate intercrop with cassava, vegetables and/or fallow.



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# Top 20

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