

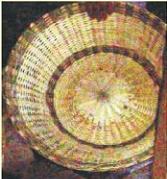
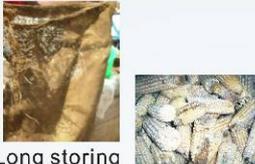
Good Life of Maize

At the farm

Activity	Bad Life Practice X	Good Life Practice ✓
1 Site selection 	Overcropped land (Cropped more than 2 years consecutively; sandy soil)  Easy animal access 	Fallowed for 2 years or more Level ground  Away from the community
2 Land preparation 	Burning  Ploughing along the slope  → Soil erosion	Slashing → Herbicide application (eg. Glyphosate)  → Wait for 5 days before planting or Ploughing across the slope (Be careful not remove the top soil)  → Wait for 2 weeks → Herbicide application (eg. Glyphosate) → Wait for 5 days → Harrowing 
3 Seed 	Using own seeds Lower yield  Slower growth	Improved seeds Higher yield Disease and drought resistant  Faster growth Higher protein (eg. Mamaba, Golden Jubilee)
4 Planting 	Random planting Many seeds per hole  → Plants compete for nutrients 	2 seeds per hole  → Plants get enough nutrients Row planting (80cm between rows, 40cm within rows)  → Uniform growth
5 Fertilizer 	No application  Thin plants  Pale leaves	Dig 5cm hole → Apply → Bury with soil 1-7 days: NPK 2 crown caps / hole 2 bags NPK 50kg / acre 4-6 weeks Before tassling: Urea 1 crown cap / hole 1 bag Urea 50kg / acre  Thick plants  Dark green leaves
6 Weed control 	Manual weeding once  Weedy field	1-3 days: Apply pre-emergence herbicide before germination (eg. Lasso-atrazine)  5-7 weeks: manual weeding or 2-4 weeks: 1st manual weeding 5-6 weeks: 2nd manual weeding When necessary: 3rd manual weeding  Field without weeds
7 Pest control 	No pest control  Maize streak virus  Stem borers	Maize streak virus (Any affected plant) → Uproot and bury  Stem borers (5% of the plants infested) → Apply insecticide (e.g. Orthene and Rimon) → Repeat after 7-10 days 
Yield: What you get (bags / acre) 	6 bags/ acre (Average) 	15 bags/ acre (Average)  

Good Life of Maize

At post-harvest

Activity	Bad Life Practice 	Good Life Practice 
8 Harvesting	Late timing → Insect infestation Harvesting from lodged plants → Rotten maize  	Timeliness (115 days after planting) (When you see many cobs drooping)   <p>Drooping cob</p>
9 Field to house	Leaving harvest in the field  Overfilled truck (Tractor, KIA truck, carriage etc) 	Immediate transport from the farm to house  Using good bags or baskets  <p>Adequate loading</p>
10 Temporal storage	Using bad bags or baskets  Leaving outside Easy animal access  <p>Long storing → Weevil infestation</p>	Good ventilation  Animal access prevented   <p>Short storing</p>
11 Dehusking, sorting and shelling	Late timing Dehusking with animals around  Bad sheller (sharp teeth, opening)  <p>→ Broken kernels, spillage Hitting bags with sticks to shell → Broken kernels</p>	Timeliness Animal access prevented   Good sheller  <p>Fewer broken kernel</p>
12 Drying and cleaning	Late timing Open drying with easy animal access  Incomplete drying  <p>→ Rotten maize</p>	Timeliness Complete drying  <p>Removing chaffs, stones and debris</p>
13 Bagging	Measuring by volume  Non-standard bags  <p>No basis for moisture analysis</p>	Using scale to measure the weight  Using moisture analyzer  Standard 50kg bag 
14 Storage	Long storing Poor ventilation Storing bad grains with good grains 	Short storing Only storing good grains Good ventilation 
Loss: What you lose (bags/ acre) 	 <p>2 bags (Average)</p>	 <p>1/2 bag (Average)</p>  <p>USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE</p>