Twitter Thread by Seruya ■The 2nd of His Name



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Garlic (Kitunguu Saumu) Farming in Kenya.

A thread.



Garlic farming has not been fully adopted by many farmers due to lack of sufficient information and a number of challenges.

However, it is one of the most precious horticultural crops.

Two common varieties are in the Kenyan market: Soft top and hard top. We have white n purple.

Seeding
Garlic has no known seeds from local agrovets.
Propagation of bulbs remains the most viable n possibly the only option.

They have one of the longest dormancy of 8 months.
If bulbs are sourced locally, you can reduce the germination period to just 3 days!!
Why?

Imported garlic has undergone various treatments ranging from freezing to electric heat treatment.

Garlic from Europe has cold treatment for preservation.

Garlic from China undergoes electric heating for preservation.

Such bulbs have the longest dormancy.

DON'T USE THEM!

You might need hormonal stimulation to break the 8 months dormancy from such imported bulbs.

Source local garlic bulbs for germination.

How I Quickly Germinate Garlic in 2 days!!

I simply remove the buds from the buld.
Peal off the hard cover.
Deep in lukewarm water exposing them to sunlight for 4 hours.

Leave them submerged in water n place under light.

Two days later, I have them roots and leaves sprouting



Transplanting:

Prepare your shamba well.

Have compost manure. Garlic requires good supply of natural nutrients.
Manure also helps in loosening the soil. Hardened soil means smaller bulbs for lack of room for bulb expansion.
You can mix NPK with the manure and 1/4 soil.

Make raised beds separated with trenches.
Garlic does well in aerated soils.
Put mixed manure and plant your garlic three inches into the soil.
Simply hold n deep in with your fingers.

Line spacing of 7cm and bud to bub spacing of 5 cm.

Water and mulch when they fully sprout



Weed control is essential as garlic dont compete well with weeds. Your field must be free of weeds.

You can top dress with CAN at 4 months when they start bulbing

Growth and maturity takes 6 to 9 months depending on climatic conditions with variations in temperature n water.

Weed, pest and infections control can be done with herbicides and pesticides.
However, keeping your farm clean reduces the need for pesticides.

Be mindful of the environmental and health impact when opting for chemical control.

Simply use ash mixed with garlic for pests.

Harvest your garlic when you see leaves and stalks turning yellow or brown and falling.

Dry in sun for a day and tie them up in a well aerated room for the bulbs to harden for market.

See you at the market when doing my supplies in the next 8 months ■