

Preparation of a planting bed for a drip irrigated garden

Edited by Eija Soini Coe of Liana from Sijali, Isaya V 2001. Drip irrigation, Options for smallholder farmers in eastern and southern Africa

1. Lay out the planting bed depending on the length, spacing and number of drip lines and build an 80 cm high stand for the bucket.



2. Excavate shallow trenches (15-30 cm deep) lengthwise where the row of crops will be planted. (Liana projects have taught to excavate the whole 7.5 x 2 m area. Mark it by a string before starting to excavate).



3. Place plant stover or green material in the trench to a depth of about 15cm.



4. Add a 5-10 cm layer of fresh manure on top of the plant stover or green material.



5. Cover the trench and level the ground to form a raised bed 10-20cm above the aisles. (Liana project have taught farmers to mix manure to the soil that was excavated from the area before returning it on top of the plant stover or green material and manure).

Now you are ready to lay out the driplines, add water to the container and let it drip to mark the planting places. Roll away the driplines before planting so that they don't get clogged by soil.

