



Do Big Kernels Give You Bigger Yields?

People ask if they buy maize seed that is smaller so they get more kernels per kg, does that mean their yield will be lower than if they used bigger seed.

Planting smaller maize seeds does not mean you will get lower yields.

The size of the kernels on an ear are different depending upon where on the ear they come from, but have the same parents and therefore same yield potential.

Factors like the weather, such as drought conditions can make a difference on the seed size. But these conditions do not change the genetic potential of the seed kernels.

Yield is determined by more than just kernel size.

- Yield = total weight or volume of Total maize kernels
- Total maize kernels = Number of ears x Number of kernel/ear
- Number of kernel/ear = Number of rows/ear x number of kernels/row
- Number of ears = Number of ears/plant x number of plants/Lima

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To get more yield, you want:

- More plants
- More ears per plant
- More rows of kernels on each ear
- More kernels in each row on each ear