



Strip Tilling for Small Scale Farmers

Tools like a “ripper” or “chaka hoe” make it easier to make a thin continuous trench to plant the seeds. This is also called “strip tillage”. This makes it easier to place the seed at an equal distance between seeds.

If you plant multiple maize seeds in hills (stations) the plants will be competing with each other for soil moisture and nutrients. If you place the seeds at a uniform distance between each other you will get more uniform ears and more maize yield from the same number of seeds.

The trench (seed furrow) for planting the seed does not need to be very wide. It is much easier and faster to use hoes that are not as wide as traditional hoes. This also reduces the potential for soil erosion.



The ripper is a tool that can make a trench for seeding that allows the seed to be spread at a specific distance between seeds. It is approximately three times faster than the traditional hill planting with a hoe.



“Chaka hoe”

Traditional hoe

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Ripper

Tillage-1