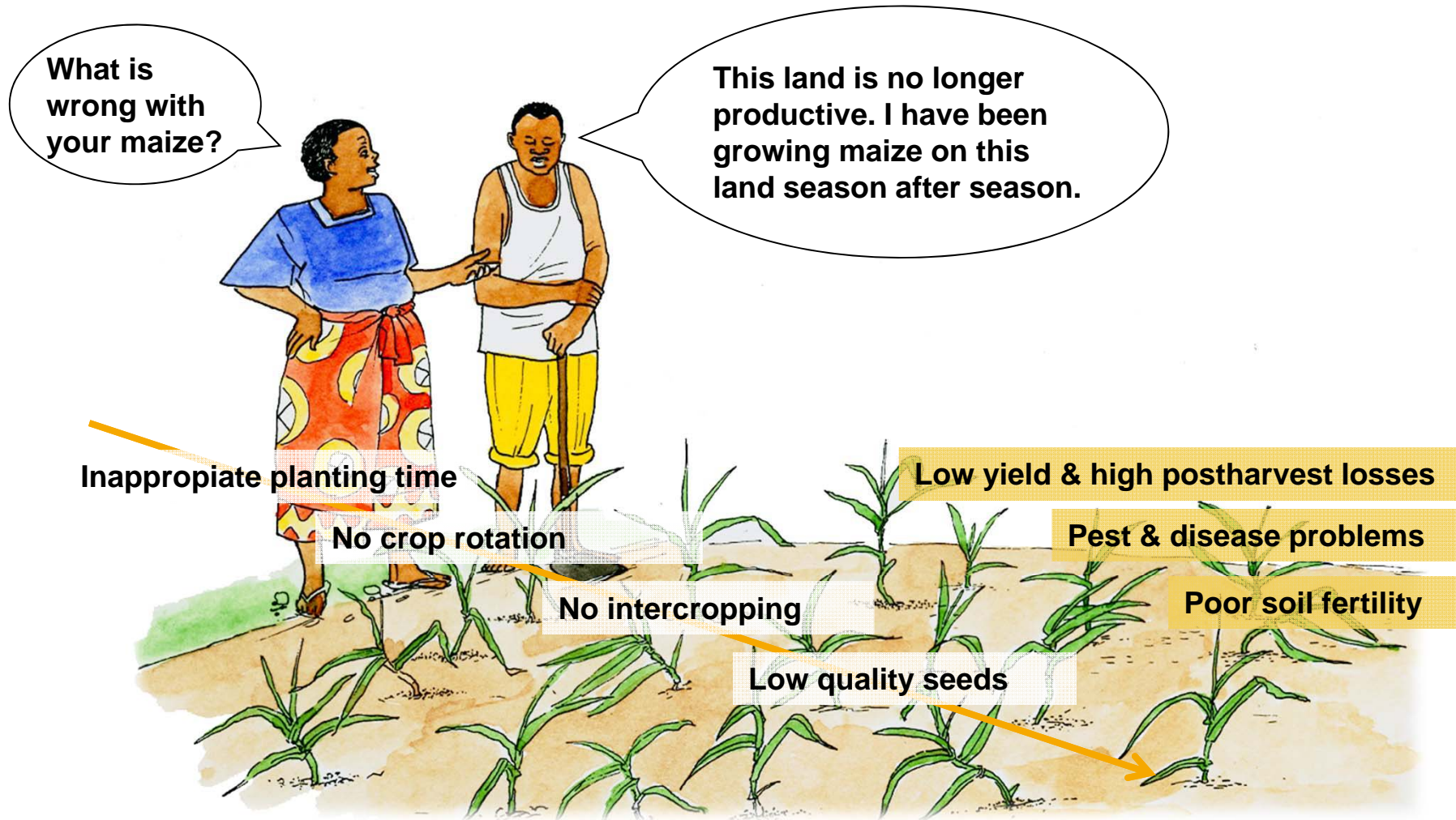
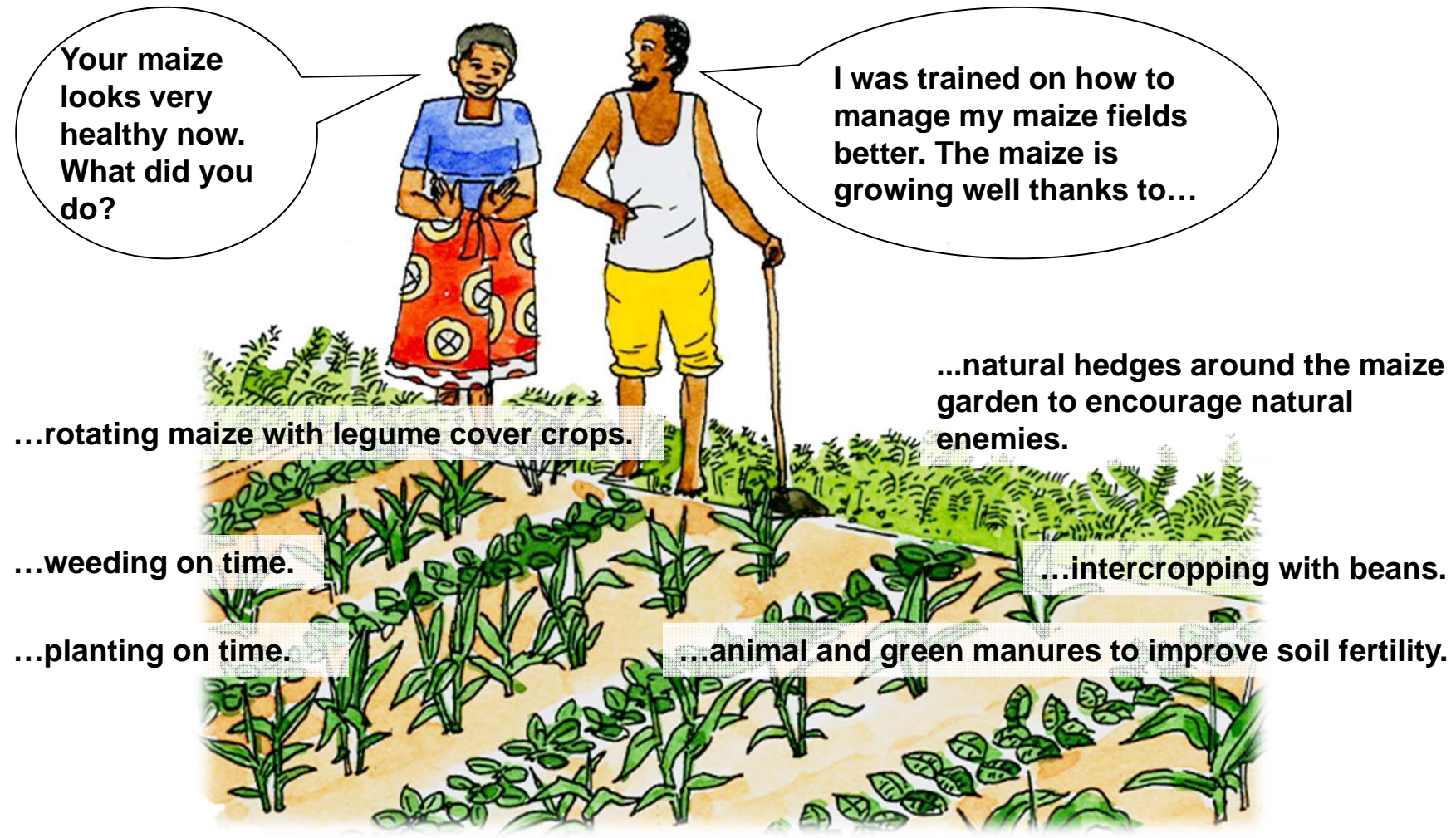


Challenges in maize production



Improved management of maize production



Criteria for selecting maize varieties

Adaptability to local conditions

Good adaption to the duration of the rainy season

Resistance or tolerance to main pests, diseases and weeds



Good for processing and marketing

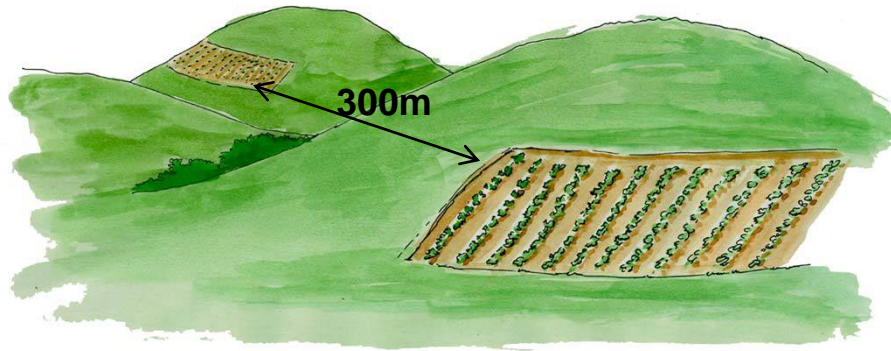
Good seed germination

Good yield capacity



Multiplying your own maize seed varieties

1. Select a field, 300m from nearby maize fields



2. Select and plant the preferred variety



3. Select only healthy looking cobs



4. Dry the cobs



5. Thresh and store well



Options of intercropping in maize

1. Maize and legume



Legumes such as beans or peas fix nitrogen required for proper maize growth.

2. Maize and green manure



The green manure cover crop is regularly slashed and left to cover the soil.

3. Maize and agroforestry

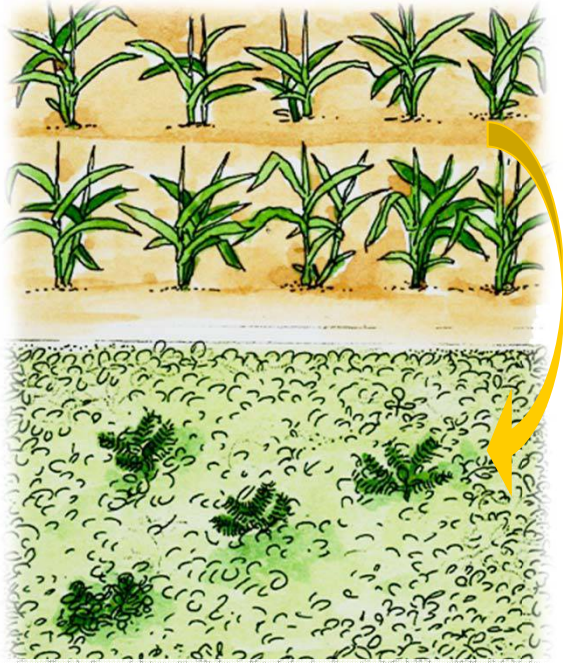


Legume shrubs are regularly pruned and the prunings left to cover the soil.



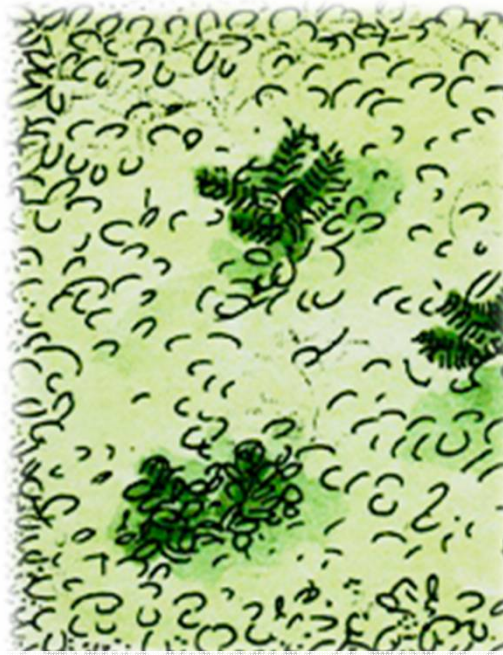
Soil fertility management in maize production

1. Crop rotation



Rotate with a green manure crop that should be slashed and seeds directly planted.

2. Improved fallow



A fallow with legume cover crops and shrubs for 1 to 3 years rejuvenates the soil and suppresses weeds.

3. Add manure/plant residues

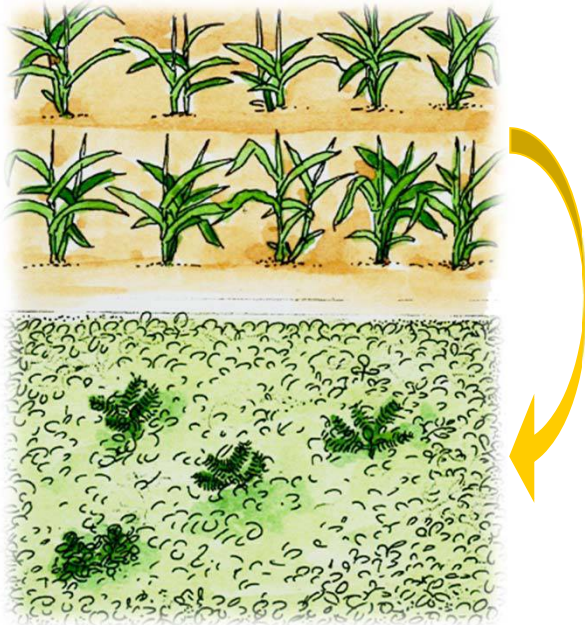


Incorporate animal manure during land preparation, and leave all dry plant materials in the field as ground cover.



Striga management

1. Crop rotation



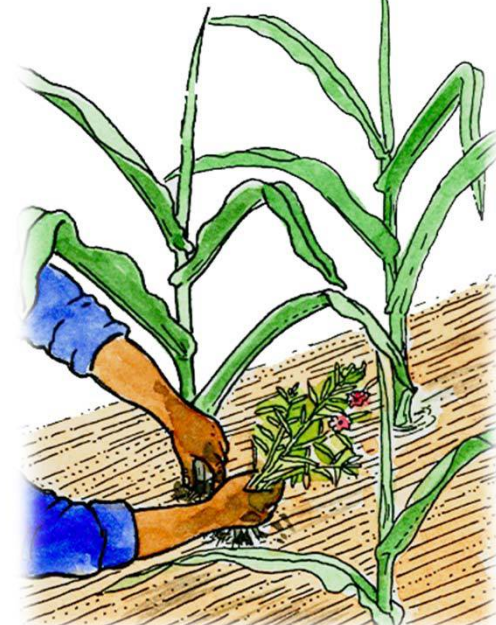
Rotating or intercropping legume crops with maize suppresses the multiplication of the striga weed.

2. Improved fallow



Under heavy infestation, it is better to fallow the land for about 2 seasons.

3. Hand weeding

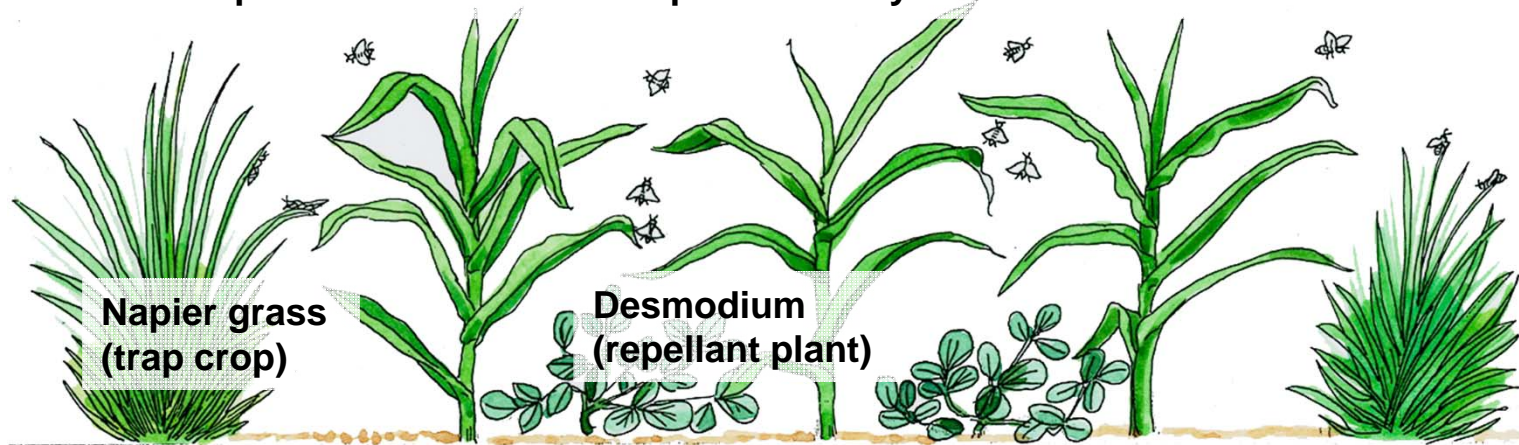


Uproot any growing striga plants before they produce seeds.

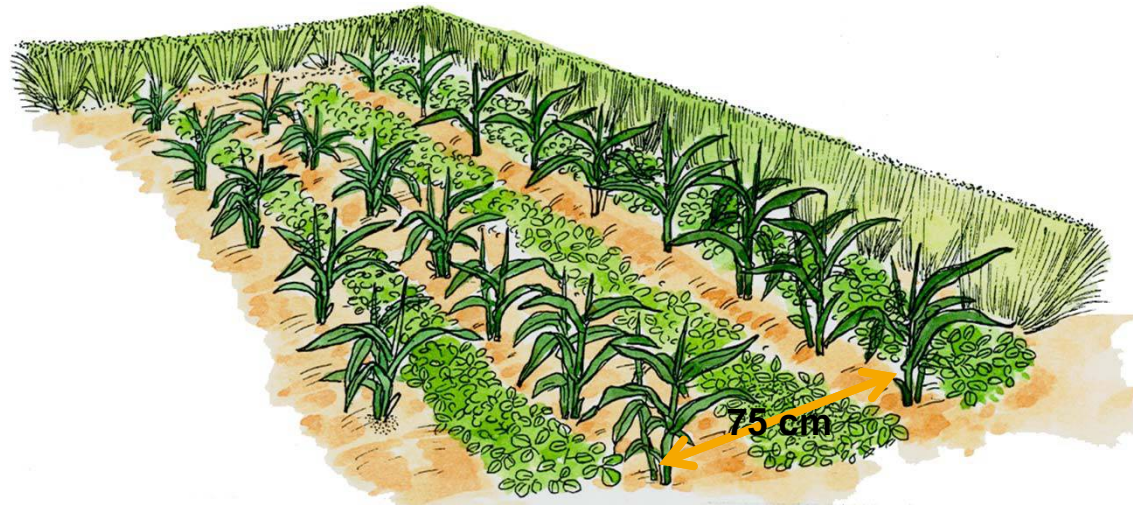


Management of stem borer (push-pull strategy)

Desmodium produces an odour that 'pushes' away the stem borer from the maize

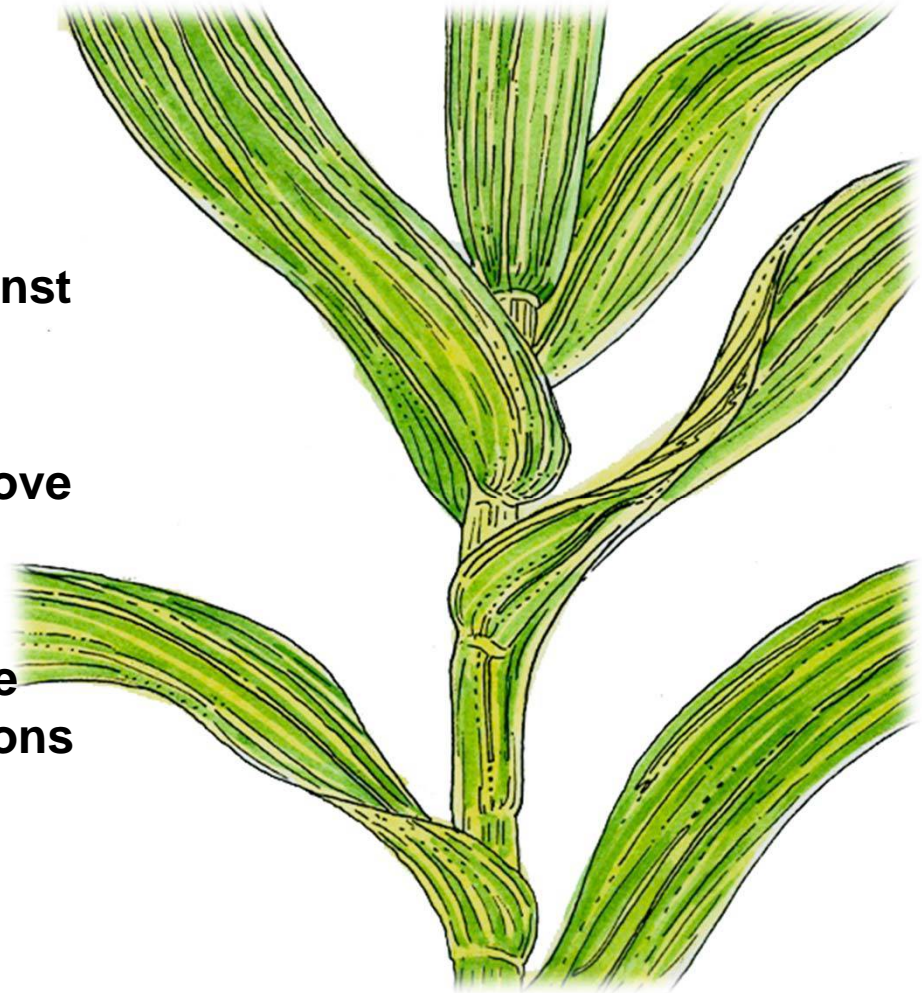


Napier grass attracts the stem borer to lay eggs that get killed in the sticky sap of the napier grass



Maize streak virus control measures

- › **Use resistant varieties**
- › **Apply botanical pesticides against leaf hoppers**
- › **Ensure regular weeding to remove alternative hosts (grasses)**
- › **Ensure early planting before the buildup of leaf hopper populations**

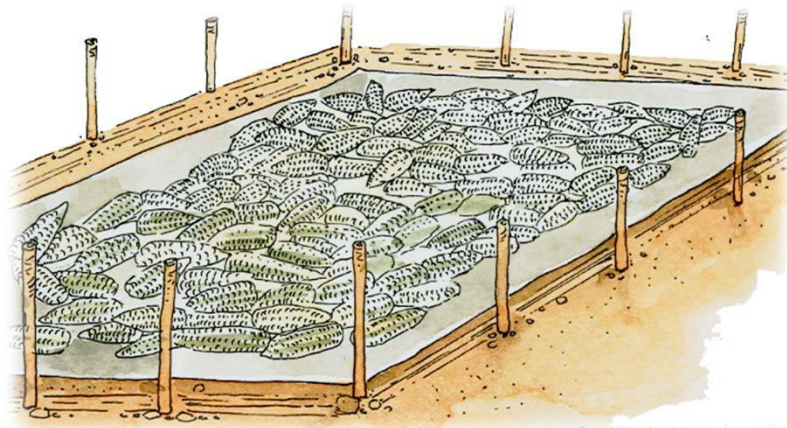


Proper postharvest handling procedures

1. Timely harvesting



2. Drying



3. Shelling



4. Sorting and packaging



5. Storage

