



# BANANA MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY AND RETURNS

## PRE- PLANTING



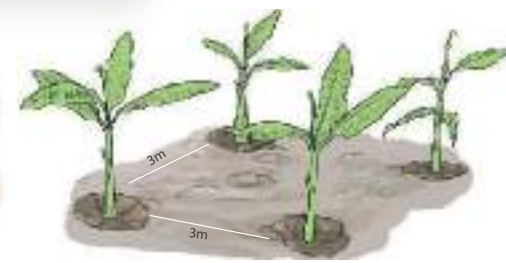
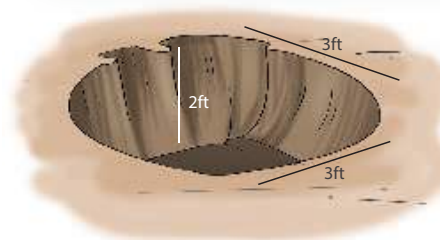
**Site Selection:** Avoid swampy areas. Banana plants grow best in areas with good drainage, good lighting, adequate shade and wind protection and fertile soils.



**Bush Clearing:** Clear the bush and uproot any stumps.

- Deep plough to loosen the hard surface and improve aeration and water infiltration.
- Do not burn bushes. Residues from bush clearing can be used for mulching.
- Leave a few trees around the border of the site to provide shade and wind protection.

## PLANTING



**Spacing and Marking:** Recommended spacing must be at least 3 feet long x 3 feet wide, and 2 feet deep. Good spacing ensures good root system development and functioning.



*Pared Sucker*



*Water Sucker*



*Sword Sucker*

**Planting Materials:** A farmer should select and use only clean planting materials. There are two types of planting materials: Suckers and Tissue Culture (TC) plantlets. When using suckers, recommended to use sword suckers because they are vigorous and stronger than water suckers.



## MANAGEMENT

# Practices to productive banana farming

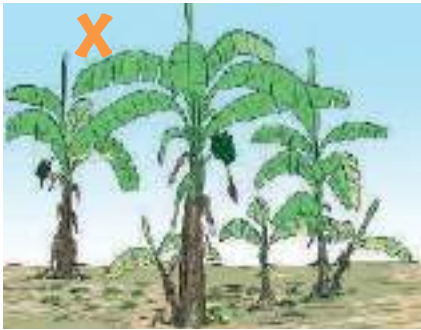
Plan to manage your banana plantation using resources within and around banana cropping systems



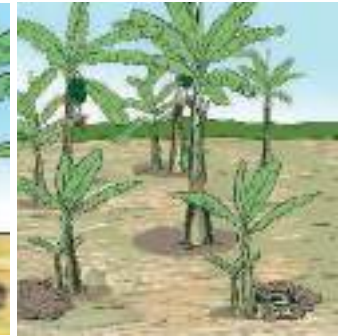
**De-suckering:** Removal of excess suckers to maintain optimum plant population per mat. Leave 3 plants per mat.



**Mulching:** It retains moisture in the field, reduces erosion and suppresses weeds. Blanket mulching with thick grass is recommended.



**Pruning:** The removal or trimming of dry and any dead leaves from the plant. Be sure to only cut the dry leaves and sheaths to avoid contact with plant sap. This prevents harboring of pests and spread of diseases.



**Corm Removal:** This helps to destroy the breeding ground for weevils. If the harvested corm is heavily damaged, cut off the damaged tissue and leave the clean part to support the mat. Removed corms should be cut into small pieces to ensure quick drying and destruction of eggs and larvae of the weevils.



**Male bud removal:** Remove the male bud to ensure a good bunch weight and control the spread of diseases. Only use forked stick and not sharp objects to remove the male bud. The forked stick should not damage the fingers.