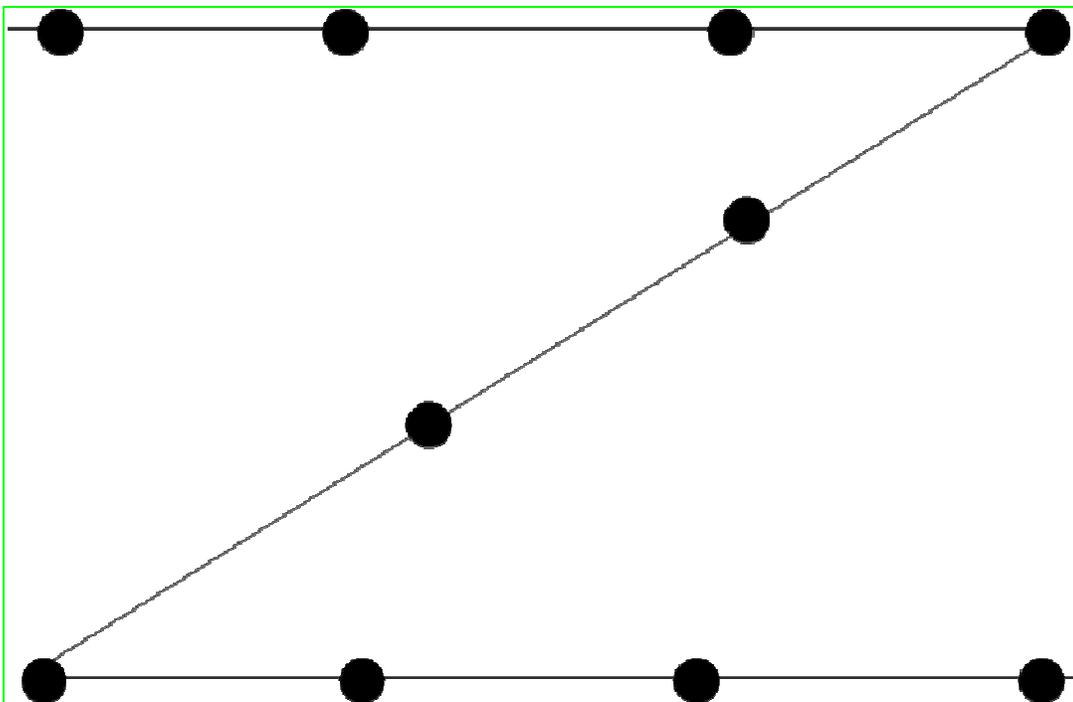


Supporting the tobacco farmer to maximize on the tobacco quality and yield per hectare.

- Do not estimate or guess your soil input requirements. This is costly!
- Have your soil, foliar and water analysed for pH, soluble salts (EC), metals, mineral nitrogen, phosphate and other parameters.
- Based on the analytical results obtained T.R.B gives recommendations on the exact or economical amounts of agro-chemicals such as fertilizers and lime to give the best yields.
- Bring your samples to T.R.B, TSF, ZITAC, and BMZ Auctions floors during tobacco auction days
- Samples are analysed at economically affordable prices.

T.R.B is your one stop shop for your research information, analytical services and chemical/fertilizer recommendations



Soil sampling protocol

- The soil samples should be true representative of the whole land.
- Divide the land into similar areas depending on their colour of soil or past management practices with respect to liming, fertilizing or cropping.
- The best time for sampling is after the rains and when the soil has dried out e.g. April and May.
- A minimum of about twenty sub samples should be taken with a trowel for each demarcated area. Each sub-sample should be trowel full of soil to a brush of litter or loose soil on the surface.
- The sub-samples from the same area should be placed in a clean container free from contamination and thoroughly mixed.
- The resultant mixture should be spread on a clean sheet of paper , air dried and divided into 4 equal parts.
- Small portions of soil should be taken from each quarter until about 1-2kgs of soil has been obtained.
- This represent the composite soil sample that should be placed in a khaki bag or soil carton but not in plastic bag.
- Each composite sample should be clearly labeled and if possible the farmer should draw a sketch map of each land indicating from where the samples were taken.
- Unusual areas such as those in the vicinity of termite mounts, drains, wet spots and contour ridges must be avoided.
- The accuracy of soil analysis will depend on the thoroughness of the sampling technique.
- A complete history of land i.e. virgin land, fallow or riveted, density of cover and whether incorporated or burnt off, time of ploughing, past fertilizer history including liming must be submitted with each sample so that the soil testing laboratory can provide more reliable report.