Beans offer many benefits to farmers. Nevertheless, for successful cultivation, careful variety selection is crucial:

- Choose varieties suitable for the local climate
- Use healthy seeds only.
- Consider improved varieties with resistance or tolerance to local pests and diseases.
- Make sure to separate seeds of different varieties.

Plant the bean seedlings when the rains start. Delayed planting can reduce the crop yields. Early planting also reduces the risk of plant pests like bean fly and other diseases.

The amount of seeds to be planted on an acre farm depends on the variety of the seeds but it is supposed to be between twenty to forty kilograms of the seeds.

**Green beans:** Have potential in export markets and they depend on good growing conditions (test on small plots first)

**Dry beans:** They can be stored easily and are important food stuff in the off season.

### Planting Beans.

Beans are suitable for intercropping and crop rotation.

When planting beans, make sure to alternate with other crops to enhance the benefits of nitrogen fixation and reduce pest pressure.

When you are only planting beans, put a spacing of 50 cm on between rows and 10 cm between the plant and plant one seed per hole. To get better yields, plant the beans together with maize at intervals of 125 cm and rows of beans 50 cm apart from the maize.

Put one bottle top of a 2-litre soda bottle of fertilizer on the planting rows. Cover with soil after sowing the beans.

Plant the seed 5cm below the ground if the soil is light. The seeds can be planted at a depth of 2.5 cm if the soil is heavy.

### Proper field establishment and crop management

- Select an appropriate support system for climbing beans depending on cost, available materials and convenience of picking.
- Conserve soil by building terraces and intercropping beans with stronger plants.
- Incorporate organic materials well into the soil for fertilization.
- Compost animal manure before application to avoid attraction of the bean fly.
- Timely hoeing and ridging to manage weeds.