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Bulb Onion Farming Success Hinges on Effective Management and Soil Conditions High yields of above 10 tons per acre indicate success in bulb onion farming, but only a few farmers achieve this production level. Good management from land preparation to harvesting is crucial for high-end success. Bulb onions require well-drained fertile soils with loam or sandy loam composition. Poor soil conditions like clay or hard pads lead to slow nutrient uptake, resulting in thin bulbs and reduced yields. Adding farmyard manure before planting helps improve soil fertility and water retention. Adequate water supply is essential for bulb onion farming, especially during the dry season. Insufficient water can cause bulb abortion, stunted growth, and low-quality yields. Drip irrigation is recommended, but basin irrigation also works. Before planting, farmers should conduct market research to select the best variety, considering factors like shape, color, pungency, yield, maturation period, and shelf life. Some top varieties include Neptune, African Red, and Red Coach. Proper spacing, weeding, and pest management are also crucial for successful bulb onion farming. The ideal planting spacing is 8cm by 15cm, and weeding should be done after 3-4 weeks of transplanting. Selective herbicides can be used, but they may lower production. Regular topdressing with fertilizers like DAP or CAN fertilizer enhances root development and bulb formation. Bulb onions are susceptible to fungal diseases like purple blotch, downy mildew, and Rust, which can be controlled by spraying Infinito fungicides. Thrips are the most common pests in bulb onion farming and can be managed through integrated pest management strategies. If you don't manage thrips correctly after transplantin, they can cause up to 30% of your onions to be worthless. To avoid disastir, spray with Match, Thunder, Escort, or Belt insecticides early on in the growin season. Fast-maturin varieties like those that take only 90-105 days to mature can thrive under good management. But first, you gotta cure the onions by bendin the leaves around the neck and lettin them dry out. This will make 'em last longer when they're sellin. Then comes sortin, where the bulbs are graded from biggest to smallest or just plain "un-gradedd". The cost of growin onions can vary a lot dependin on where you live, how good you are at farmin, and how much water you have for irrigatin. **Cost Breakdown:** Seeds - 30,000 shillings Fertilizers + Manure - 60,000 shillings Chemicals - 30,000 shillings Labour - 40,000 shillings Water - 5,000 shillings Other costs - 20,000 shillings Total cost - 185,000 shillings **Frequently Asked Questions:** Q: What's the best month to plant onions in Kenya? A: February for a May-June harvest when prices are high. Q: How much does it cost to farm onions per acre in Kenya? A: Between 150,000 -200,000 shillings dependin on how well you manage your land. Q: How many tons of onions can I get from one acre in Kenya? A: 10-20 tons with good management, but less than 1 ton if things don't go well. Q: How long does it take for onions to grow in Kenya? A: About 3-4 months dependin on the variety and weather. Q: Where can I sell my onions in Kenya? A: Try mass markets or supermarkets for the best prices. As an onion farmer, are you gettin more than 10 tons per acre? If not, reach out to us and we'll help you boost your production! Planting with Raised Beds Can Help Farmers Raise Healthy Seedlings, Says Expert Experts emphasize the importance of using plant raises in farming and how it helps ensure that soil is well-fertilized. Soil pH and calcium levels should be tested before application of fertilizers. According to experts, onion roots are located within a 15cm radius from the stem, making them shallow feeders. If the soil PH level falls below six or if available calcium is less than 2300kg per hectare, farmers should apply agricultural lime at a rate of 2500kg per hectare about 8-12 weeks prior to planting. Farmers need to apply phosphate in soils low on phosphorous, around 94kg per hectare. Phosphate application is usually done by banding it 6-8.5cm below and on both sides of the rows where onions will be planted. Nitrogen applications are critical in terms of quantity and timing. The amount of nitrogen supplied depends on soil analysis, with poor soils requiring up to 180kgs/hectare for direct sown crops. Average soils would need lower levels, ranging from 120-140kg/hectare. Soils low in potassium require an application of 100kg/hectare before planting. The remaining potassium can be applied with the first nitrogen application at a rate of 85kg/hectare, three weeks after transplanting or when seedling has reached 3-leaf stage. Munyera emphasizes the importance of precise seedling placement using pre-plant fertilizers, banding it 6 to 8cm below the seed. The cost of growing bamboo, for instance, takes around three years after planting. Onions, on the other hand, need roughly one inch of water each week - including rainwater. In Kenya, the wholesale price of onions in 2022 ranged between US\$0.99 and US\$2.34 per kilogram or between US\$0.45 and US\$1.06 per pound. Additionally, the price is approximately KES107.83 per kilogram. A kilogram of onions typically contains around six onions. When it comes to maturity, onions take roughly 3-4 months to grow after planting. If you're looking for spring onions or green onions, they can be harvested about three weeks after planting onion sets. As for the profitability of onion farming, it's estimated that farmers can make between \$0 and \$1,200 per acre. Onion plants usually produce only one onion per seed, under normal conditions. In terms of fertilizer, onions require a high source of nitrogen. A nitrogen-based fertilizer should be applied every 2-3 weeks after planting. The ideal climate for growing onions is mild weather without extreme temperatures or excessive rainfall. Onion farming has three sowing seasons in India - Kharif (July-August to October-December), late Kharif (October-November to January-March), and Rabi (December-January to March-May). Among various crops, cannabis, rice, maize, and wheat are the most valuable cash crops. However, fruit trees and berries tend to generate the highest profit across different farm sizes. Interestingly, saffron is considered one of the most expensive crops in the world, selling for around \$2500 per pound. When it comes to planting onions, spring is usually the best time, with onion sets being planted outdoors as soon as the ground can be worked - typically in late March or early April. Onions can be planted when soil temperatures are consistently above 28°F (-2°C). For a head start in spring, begin onion seeds indoors around six weeks before moving them outside once the ground reaches at least 50°F. After onions have matured, heavy-feeding plants like tomatoes, chili peppers, winter squash, swedes, cabbage, pumpkin, radishes, or lettuce can be planted. These vegetables benefit from the onion plants' ability to create channels for water and air in the soil, which helps shallow-rooted plants thrive. To grow onions optimally, they require well-drained soil with a pH between 6.0 and 7.0 and high organic matter content. Additionally, phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) applications should be based on soil test recommendations.

How much is an acre of onions worth. How much can an acre of onions produce in kenya. How many onions do you get per acre. How much does 1 acre of onions make. How much can i earn from an acre of onions in uganda. How much can one earn from an acre of onions. How many onions are in a hectare. How much onion yield per acre.