

LABAN'S DEMO PLOT TRIAL

CROP: FRENCH BEANS (MISHIRI)

COUNTY: MERU

PLOT A	PLOT B
<p>Followed his “traditional” way of growing French Beans (How he has grown in the last 7 years)</p> <p>Applied 4 bags of 50 kg DAP fertilizer per acre at planting</p> <p>Cost of inputs: KES. (3200 per DAP bag x 4 bags) = KES. 12,800</p> <p>Output: French beans not ready for harvesting by the time we visited Laban’s farm</p> <p>Observation: Guessing what the inputs the crop needs leads to increased cost of inputs and waste of fertilizer and economic investment</p> <p>Verdict: Testing the soil saves farmer money that he’d would have otherwise spent on unnecessary fertilizer</p>	<p>Applied CROPNUTS soil analysis recommendations</p> <p>Applied 2 and half bags 50kg bag per acre of Gypsum + 2025kg/acre of Manure + 2 bags per acre of NPK + 1/5 bag (10 kg) per acre of Ammonium Sulphate fertilizer</p> <p>Cost of inputs: Gypsum: 2.5 bags x KES. 700 per bag = KES. 1750 Manure = locally obtained from the cow shed NPK Fertilizer: 2 bags x KES. 3200 per bag = KES. 6400 Ammonium Sulphate: 1/5 bag x KES. 2200 per bag = KES. 440 Total cost of inputs = KES. (1750 + 6400 + 440) = KES. 8590</p> <p>Output: When we visited the farm, Laban was on his second harvest. Laban harvested an average of 720kgs of French beans per acre on his first harvest</p> <p>Observation: Soil testing works. Soil testing reduces the cost of farm inputs while at the same increase production</p> <p>Verdict: The benefits outweigh the cost of soil testing</p>