Efficient water management in LAMA SAOUDE: The ZAI method

(SCRIPT)

PRESENTED BY

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INTRODUCTION

Water, such a precious resource for our crops, is becoming increasingly scarce in our arid regions. How can we ensure sufficient harvests despite this major challenge?

Hello everyone, I am KOUFAME Naoune, a student at the University of Kara.

Today, I invite you to discover an age-old yet effective solution that could transform agriculture in our regions: the ZAÏ method. A simple technique that allows for better water management, soil preservation, and increased yields, even during periods of drought.

CONTEXT

Repeated droughts and scarce rainfall—all manifestations of climate change—are no longer just realities encountered in the Sahelian regions, but also in Togo in recent years. The ZAÏ method is here to help. Used for generations in the Sahel, this technique involves digging small pits to capture and retain rainwater, allowing plants to better withstand periods of drought. But many are still hesitant to adopt it, perhaps due to a lack of information or fear that it won't be productive enough. I'll tell you more today.

SOLUTION

The ZAÏ method offers a simple and natural alternative for sustainable agriculture. The ZAÏ technique is carried out on slopes and relies on holes approximately 20 to 40 cm in diameter and depth, spaced regularly across the field. These holes (shaped like a half-moon) are filled with organic matter such as compost or manure before the first rains, which enriches the soil and improves its water-retaining capacity. When rain falls, water is captured by these pits, reducing runoff and allowing moisture to penetrate deep into the soil.

Implementation Steps

1. First, you must prepare the ground: mark out the areas where the pits will be dug, leaving a spacing of approximately 80 to 90 cm between each hole (this depends mainly on the crops).

2. Next, dig holes 20 to 40 cm in diameter and depth.
3. Then you need to fill the pits with compost, manure, or any other available organic substance.

4. After this 5. , The seeds must be sown after the first rains.

After these rains, it is necessary to follow up and maintain: Ensure that the pits are regularly enriched with organic matter and monitor the crops to ensure their good growth.

You might be thinking,

“But does this actually work?”

“Can this technique really bring me higher returns?”

The answer is yes. Several studies and farmer testimonies show that the ZAÏ method not only improves water retention but also soil fertility, leading to more abundant harvests even in difficult conditions. This method, beyond improving harvests, restores soil fertility and helps ensure a better future for our land.

One of the testimonies is that of Mr. Yacouba Sawadogo, a peasant from the village of Gourga in

Burkina Faso, which innovated by using the ZAÏ method to combat desertification.
Despite difficult conditions, he digs holes in the earth during the dry season, adding compost and seeds, preparing his field for the coming rains. This once-forgotten method has allowed Yacouba to revive the 27 hectares of degraded land.
Nicknamed "the man who stopped the desert," he has become a symbol of hope and innovation in Africa, honored by the United Nations. What if you had access to training that would guide you in implementing this technique? What if you could benefit from resources and advice to enrich your soil at a lower cost? All of this is possible. You just have to take the first step. So let's try the ZAÏ method.

INVITATION AND GREETING

Dear brothers and sisters, faced with the challenges we face in agriculture, we must turn to sustainable solutions. The ZAÏ method is a simple but revolutionary technique that can give us hope.

Together, let’s adopt the ZAÏ method to improve our yields while preserving our environment.

Thank you for listening to me and see you soon for new solutions for sustainable and resilient agriculture.