

TIED RIDGES



also called:	used in:	
• infield RWH	gardens	✓
• partitioned furrows	fields	✓
• cross-ridges	grazing land	
• furrow dikes		

Tied ridges increase the water that is available to plants by collecting rainfall from unplanted sloping basins and catching it in furrows and ridges. Planting takes place on either side of the furrows, where the water infiltrates. Basins are made by digging out shallow furrows along the contour lines of the slope and making ridges on the downside of the furrows. These are “tied” together by slightly lower ridges which are made at regular intervals along the furrows. The loss of water through evaporation is minimised by placing mulch in the furrows.



Water is trapped in a furrow



Mulch is put in furrows to minimise evaporation

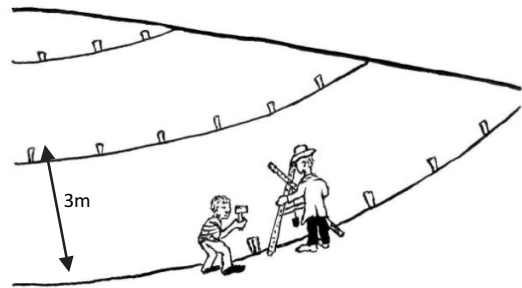
Soil	Slope	Rainfall	Tools & Equipment
Soil depth of 700-1000 mm. Soils should be quite stable. The best soils are clay, or soils with a relatively permeable topsoil over a less permeable subsoil.	Up to 7% on soils which do not erode.	Annual rainfall of 400-700 mm.	spade* fork tape measure string sticks mulch wheelbarrow <i>*essential</i>



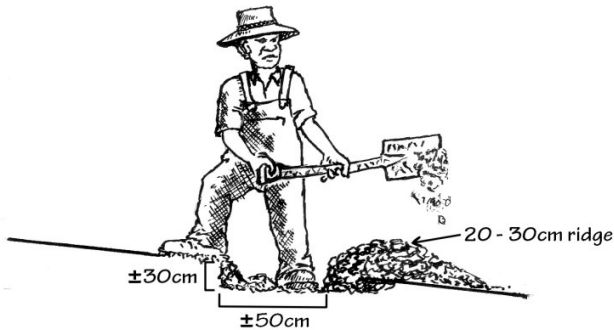
METHOD



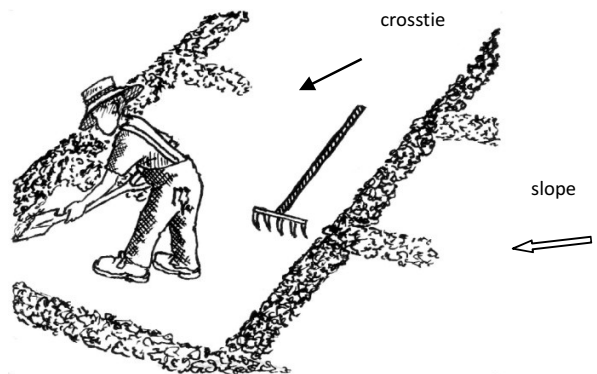
1. Choose a site and clear the ground of rocks, bushes, grass and weeds.



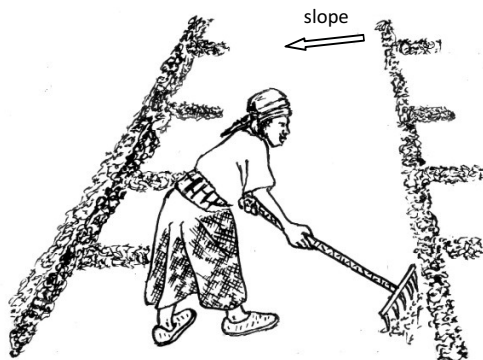
2. Mark out contour lines on the slope, at three meters apart.



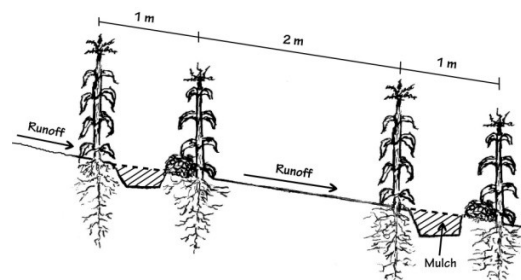
3. Dig a shallow furrow (about 50 cm wide and 30 cm deep) along each contour and put the soil on the down-slope side of the furrow to create a ridge (about 20-30 cm high).



4. Create crossties (ridges which are 15-20 cm high) every 3 meters. Ties must be lower than the main ridges so that water never flows over the ridges.



5. Use a rake or plank to level out each basin, as this is the water catchment area. Put mulch in the furrows if possible.



6. Plant in two rows, one on either side of the ridge and furrow

