

Site Selection

- If virgin land, a permit is required
- Slope should be less than 20%
- Soil potential (soil form & depth)
- A Land Use Plan (LUP) is recommended



Checking the soil type and depth



Plough out field

PLANTING

2

Land Preparation

The purpose of good land preparation is to:

1. Kill the old crop

- If yield has become too low
- To control diseases
- To change the variety



2. Prepare a seed bed

- With no clods
- Remove the old stools
- With no volunteers
- To create a furrow in which to plant (100 mm)



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3

Methods of land preparation

Minimum tillage

Equipment needed: tractor, rotary hoe and knapsack sprayer

- Glyphosate is used to kill the old crop
- Reduces soil erosion
- Recommended for steep land: >12%
- Recommended for sandy soils
- Used in summer November - March
- Lower costs



Old crop

Interrow

Conventional tillage

Equipment needed: tractor, plough and harrow

- Can only be done in Winter
eg. April - September
- Lime can be incorporated
- Not suitable for steep land
- Higher costs



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4

Row Spacing and Depth

Row Spacing

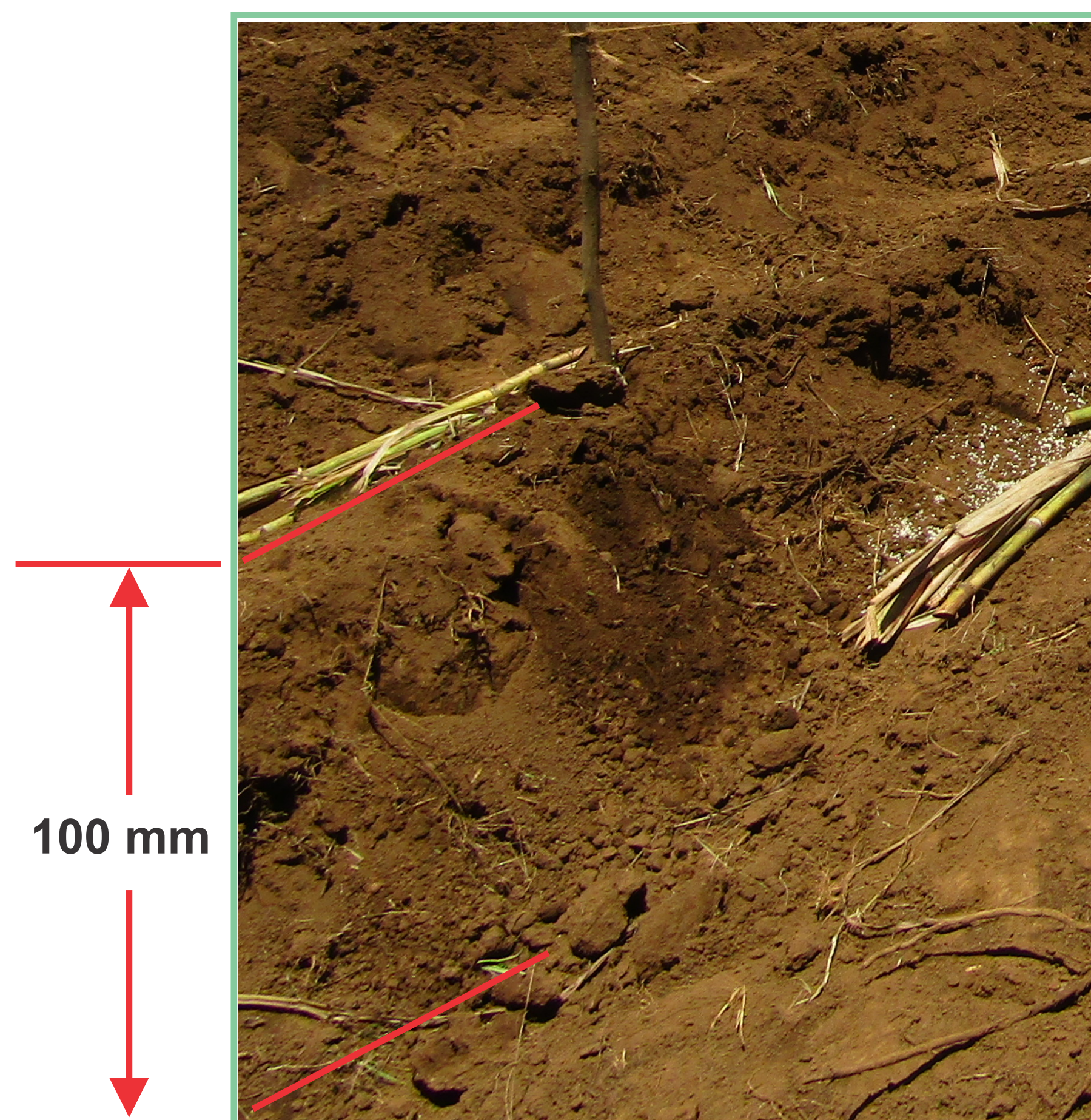
- Depends on your soil type and location
- Common row spacing = 1m or 1,2 m



Row spacing

Row Depth

- 100mm optimum



Planting depth

Seedcane

Variety selection

Based on:

- Harvest cycle: 12 or 24 month?
- Soil type
- Aspect and elevation
- Time of year of harvest
- Distance from mill



Seedcane harvesting

Seedcane quality

- Disease and pest-free seedcane
- Age of seedcane (9 - 18 months)
- Source seedcane two years ahead of planting



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6

Method

Application of fertiliser

- Apply plant fertiliser in the furrow
- Topdress \pm 12 weeks later

Seed Cane Rate

- 6 Tons - Single Stick
- 8 Tons - 1½ Stick
- 10 Tons - Double Stick

Set Length

- Cut 3 - 4 internodes
- RSD control - 5 litres of water per 500ml of Jeyes Fluid

Covering Depth

- Winter (shallow) - 50 mm
- Summer (deep) - 100 mm
- Compaction is vital
- Weed control using a pre-emergent herbicide immediately after planting

