

# The Small White Bean



AS GOOD AS THE BEST, BETTER THAN MOST



# Advantages of planting Dry Beans

- Beans are able to fix Nitrogen from the atmosphere and into the soil
- Planting Maize and other grasses as a follow up crop to Beans, may increase your yields by up to 30%
- Your weed control will also be precise since there will not be any broad-leafed weeds growing with your maize crop
- The price per ton for Beans can be fixed for a whole season, the producer knows the price per ton before planting



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# Opportunities in Dry Bean Production

- Beans are labour intensive, and once the crop canopy closes, the farmer cannot mechanically control weeds and will need to remove the weeds manually, which means job opportunities for unskilled labour
- Machinery for harvesting Beans can be expensive, and can also reduce your grain quality, the unskilled worker can still be useful for harvesting quality grain (Manual Harvesting)
- The plant residue and straws can be used as fodder for cattle and other ruminants as Beans are an important source of protein.



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# Opportunities in Dry Bean Production



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# Risks and Realities in Dry Bean Production

- The rate at which climate is changing, it is risky to produce Beans under dryland.
- Beans are planted between mid December and mid January, and are harvested in April-May, planting late may result in frost damage to the crop
- Beans take up to 60 days to reach flowering stage, if planted early in December under dryland, the crop might reach flowering stage during mid summer drought, and will most likely lose up to 50% of its flowers



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# Risks and Realities in Dry Bean Production

- The high probability of hail damage in temperate areas may force the farmer to take up crop insurance, which is very expensive
- Mechanical handling of the crop needs to be done properly (preferably without the use of augers) to avoid breakage of the grain
- Always follow your spray program and specifications for optimal results
- Mixing too many chemical mediums in one spray may lead to crop failure.



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“Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man.” George Washington

**Thank you**

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