KAT/FM-1 (Katumani Finger Millet-1) (Millet)

Climatic requirements
- The variety is self-pollinated and grows up to 6cm tall
- Flowers in 75 days
- Matures in 90-115 days
- Mature ear glumes are straw in colour
- The seed colour is brown
- Potential yield grain yield is 1400kg/ha or 560 kg/ha
- The variety is tolerant to blast and resistant to lodging
- Can grow from sea level to 2000m above sea level
- It is high in calcium

Recommended zones
The millet varieties grow well in agro-ecological zones IV and V of Eastern and North Eastern provinces. They also do well in the semi-arid districts of Rift valley and Western Provinces that receive about 150mm of rain per season. The varieties can be grown from 50m to 2000m above sea level.

Management/Breeding Practices

Land preparation
Millets require a fine seedbed. Ploughing can be done using a hoe, tractor or oxen. Fields with big soil clods should be harrowed. Planting fields should be prepared early. Land should be ploughed immediately after harvesting the previous crop.

Planting
Spatial planting is recommended. Drill or plant in hills half the field before the rains and plant the other half at the onset of rains.

Seed rate in furrows:
- Pearl millet - 5kg/ha or 2 kg/acre
- Finger millet - 3kg/ha or 1.2 kg/acre
- Proso millet - 4kg/ha or 1.6 kg/acre

Method of planting
- Drill and thin 2 weeks after emergence when plants are about 6 inches tall.

Depth of planting: All varieties should be planted at a depth of 2 inches (5cm)

Thinning: Thin to one seedling per hill. This results in strong plants that produce the required yields.

Spacing: (Sole cropping):
  i). Pearl millet varieties (Kat/PM I, Kat/PM2 and KAT PM3):
  - Distance between rows - 60cm
  - Distance between plants - 15cm
  - Intercrop: Pearl millet: 120cm X 15cm and 1 row of grain legume between

  ii). Finger millet, Foxtail and proso millet (Kat/FM-1, Kat/Pro I):
  - Distance between rows - 30cm
  - Distance between plants - 10cm

Fertilizer Application
All millets respond well to fertilizers. Apply 50kg per hectare of NPK (20:20:0) when necessary. Farmyard manure is recommended at 8-12 tons/ha.

Weeding
The first weeding should be done within 2-3 weeks after emergence and the second 2-3 weeks thereafter. In the case of Proso millet, the first weeding should be done within 2 weeks of emergence.