# Phosphorus deficiency in Maize

## Prevention
- Test your soil for Phosphorus levels 1-2 months before planting
- Practice soil conservation measures to prevent erosion of top soil which is rich in soil organic matter and nutrients
- Improve water holding capacity in the field by application of soil amendments such as lime and manure
- Ensure weed-free field to reduce nutrient competition
- Use organic manures (see direct control green column)

## Monitoring
- Look out for affected plants in the field with:
  - Purple colouration on younger leaves
  - Yellowing on older leaves forming a V-shape

## Direct Control
- Use bio-slurry from biogas digesters or animal shed at the rate of 1 litre/square metre (4000/l)
- Use organic fertilizer from compost or farm yard manure at the rate of 10 tons per hectare
- Use organic fertilizers (yad bio-vitalizer, Mijingu) at recommended rates
- Leave the farm fallow for at least 1 season
- Apply inorganic basal fertilizer with Phosphorus (e.g NPK, DAP) during planting as recommended after soil testing

## Direct Control
- WHEN applying fertilizers always wear protective clothing.
- Store fertilizers in dry conditions and away from pesticides
- Always dispose of excess fertilizers properly in designated areas.

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**Kenya**

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