



ESWATINI GRAIN FARMERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Meet the National Committee of Eswatini Grain Farmers Association. This committee was established on the 25th August 2022 and the National Maize Corporation was responsible for facilitating its establishment. It comprises of representatives from the regional associations. Its main aim is to serve the interest of its members in as far as grains are concerned. Their focus for now would be on three crops; Maize, Beans and Sorghum.

It is expected that in the near future, the committee will create their own media platform where they will communicate with members and aspiring members.



For more information on the role of the committee and membership issues, contact Chairperson @ 76325557 or Secretary @ 76216871

	OFFICE	NAME	GENDER	CATEGORY	CROP	REGION
1	Chairperson	Mgucisi Dlamini	M	Adult	Maize/Beans	Manzini
2	Vice Chairperson	Mathius Matsebula	M	Adult	Sorghum	Lubombo
3	Secretary	Simon Mthunzi	M	Adult	Maize/Beans	Shiselweni
4	Vice Secretary	Rose Maseko	F	Seed Producer	Beans	Manzini
5	Treasurer	Gcina Shabangu	M	Adult	Maize/Beans	Shiselweni
6	Additional members	Tengetile Ngwenya	F	Youth	Sorghum	Lubombo
7		Hllesile Manana	F	Youth	Maize/Beans	Hhohho



www.nmc.co.sz



info@nmc.co.sz



P.O.Box 1775 matsapha



11th Street Matsapha Industrial Site



(+268) 2518 7432



(+268) 2518 8047

Harvesting practices to avoid

- Throwing cobs over long distances and on the bare ground after de-husking results in grain losses and contamination which compromise the quality.
- The use of dirty harvesting material such as mats and sacks increase risks of aflatoxin and other contaminants.
- Premature harvesting resulting into shrivelled and rotten maize.

HARVESTING METHODS

Manual Harvesting

The most common method recommended for manual harvesting is the stooking method. This involves harvesting by cutting the whole plant at just below knee-height or lower. The cut plants are then placed together in bundles as shown below.



Mechanized Harvesting

This method is most suitable for large scale farming. It is quicker and cheaper per ton harvested. When using combine harvesters, the mature grain needs to dry down in the field to moisture content of 14% before it can be harvested and stored. However, one of the challenges of waiting for moisture content to drop that low, is the risk of maize falling down and the development of weevils before the actual harvesting time. Combine harvesters by their nature, are unable to pick fallen maize. Such maize must be gleaned/collected and shelled at a different time. In Eswatini, there are few combine harvesters for public use, interested farmers can contact NMC Development Officers for guidance. The current charge for this service at NMC is E1200 per hectare harvested, but the minimum area must be 10 hectares.



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