



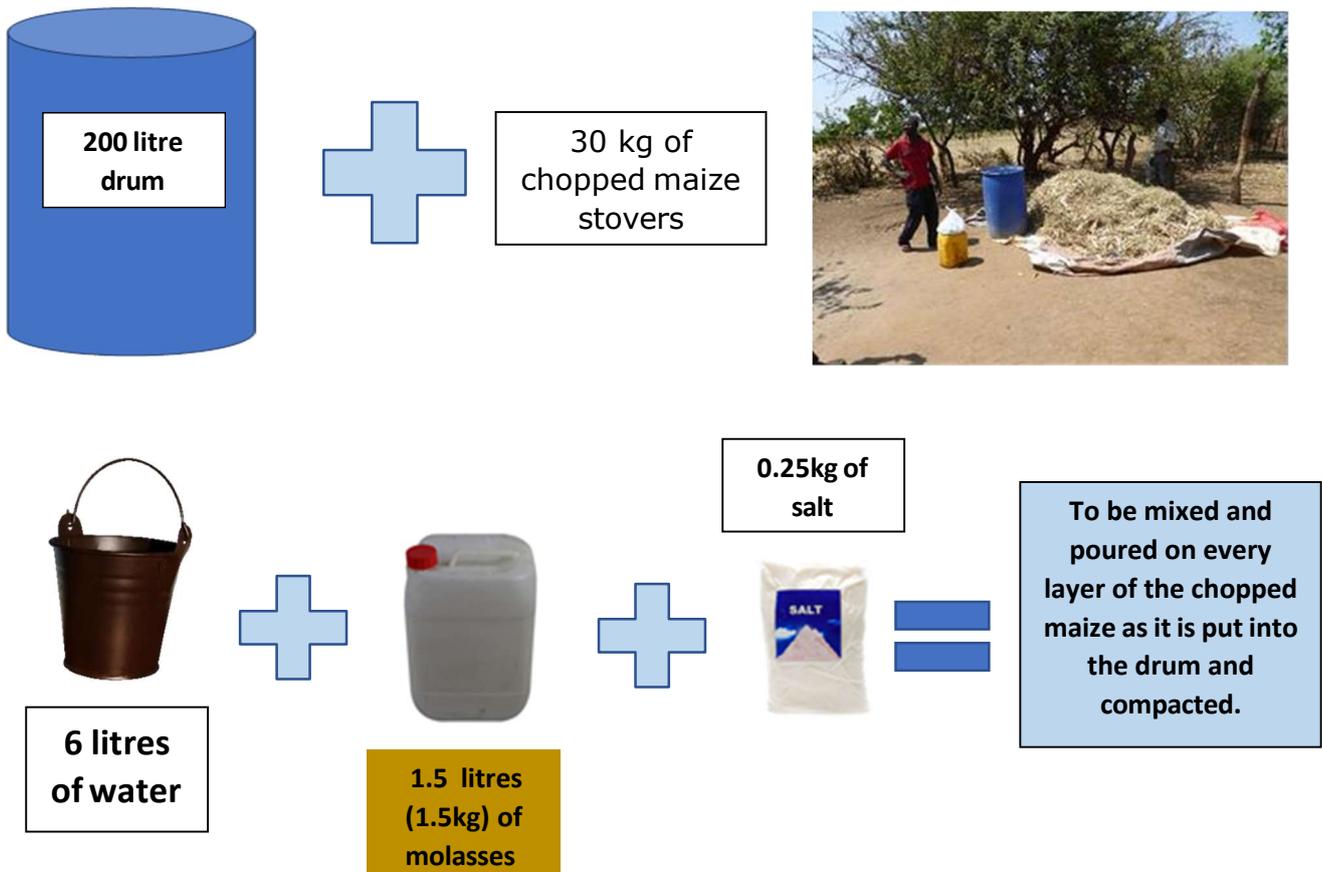
## MAKING MAIZE STOVER SILAGE

**AIM: TO SUPPORT FARMERS TO MAKE MAIZE STOVER SILAGE TO FEED TO CATTLE DURING THE DRY SEASON**

### Why make maize stover silage?

- ❖ Crop residues such as maize stover, sorghum straw and wheat straw can be used to make silage;
- ❖ Stover silage mainly helps with body maintenance;
- ❖ When making stover silage, you need to add:
  - **Water** for moisture,
  - A source of **sugar (Molasses or mealie meal)** to cause fermentation,
  - **Salt** for palatability (for taste).

### PROCEDURE FOR MAIZE STOVER SILAGE WITH MOLASSES



- ✓ Finally, the drum is closed airtight with plastic sheet and soil is put on top of the plastic (*see photos on page 2*).



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### Tips when making stover silage:

- ✓ Use a bucket which is at least 10 litres for mixing water, salt and molasses;
- ✓ Use a scale to weigh the stover;
- ✓ If using coarse salt, mix with a small amount of water and dissolve salt before adding to the molasses / water mix;
- ✓ Put at least 5 layers of stover / straw. Sprinkle each layer with about 1 litre of the molasses / water / salt mix.



Preparing the molasses/ salt/ water mixture.



Compacting the stovers.



Adding the molasses/ salt/ water mixture to a layer of stover.



Covering the drum with plastic to ensure to make it 'airtight'.

- ✓ Can be used after 6 weeks (45 days).
- ✓ Only open the pit / drum when you are ready to feed the silage to your animals.
- ✓ When the drum is opened it should be used every day until finished.
- ✓ When feeding 5 kg of silage per day, the drum has enough silage for 6 days for one cow.
- ✓ Note, stover silage can also be made in a pit. Ask your Extension Officer for advice on how to do this.

ZDTP is focused on supporting dairy farmers to improve their productivity, milk quality and linkages to urban markets. The views expressed in this publication are those of the implementers of the programme and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Government. For further information, please contact ZDTP on [zdtpinfo@primeconsultants.net](mailto:zdtpinfo@primeconsultants.net). Follow us on [www.zambiadairy.com](http://www.zambiadairy.com), Facebook ([facebook.com/zambiadairy/](https://facebook.com/zambiadairy/)) and Twitter ([@DairyZambia](https://twitter.com/DairyZambia)).