

**I.**

# **Product Knowledge**

## **Topic 26b**

# **Handling Farm Tools**

# FACT SHEET

## I. Product Knowledge

### Topic 26b: Handling Farm Tools

Farm tools are very handy and useful items if they are used correctly. Incorrect use of farm tools can result in personal injury or damage to the equipment or crops.

#### 1. Tools for land clearing

Name of tool	How to use	Warnings
<b>Machete</b>	Hold at handle in one hand and swing downward to cut weeds, reeds, and small branches.	Handle with care. The blade can cause serious injury. Lock away after use, because it can be a dangerous weapon in the wrong hands.
<b>Axe</b>	Fit the handle to axe head. Hold the handle in both hands and swing downward to chop wood and cut down trees.	Handle with care. The blade can cause serious injury. Lock away after use, because it can be a dangerous weapon in the wrong hands.
<b>Pick</b>	Fit the handle to pick head. Hold the handle in both hands and swing downward to dig holes or trenches and to cut bushes.	Handle with care. The blade can cause serious injury. Lock away after use, because it can be a dangerous weapon in the wrong hands.
<b>Shovel</b>	Use both hands to grip handle. Use shovel to loosen soil, dig holes, or scoop up sand. Use your foot to step on the shovelhead in order to press it into the soil.	Handle with care; it can cause serious injury. Do not use with bare feet.
<b>Fork</b>	Use both hands to grip the handle. Use fork to loosen soil. Use foot to step on fork head in order to press it into the soil.	Handle with care; it can cause serious injury. Do not use with bare feet.

## 2. Tools for soil preparation

Name of tool	How to use	Warnings
<b>Ox-plow</b>	Connect an ox with a harness to the plow. Let someone lead the ox forward, pulling the plow behind him. Another person holds the plow handles and steers the plow. The plowshare cuts the soil open.	Keep children away. Take good care of the ox; make sure the ox gets water and rests during the day.
<b>Animal-drawn disc plow</b>	Same as with ox-plow.	Same as with ox-plow.
<b>Animal-drawn tiller</b>	Same as with ox-plow.	Same as with ox-plow.

## 3. Tools for planting

Name of tool	How to use	Warnings
<b>Animal-drawn planter</b>	Connect an ox or mule by means of a harness to the planter. Let someone lead the ox or mule forward, pulling the planter behind him. Another person handles the planter.	Make sure that the seeds are released.
<b>Push-type planter</b>	Fill the planter's seed bucket with seeds. Push the planter forward in a straight line.	Make sure that the seeds are released.
<b>Seed stick</b>	Carry the seeds in a bag and walk. Push a hole in the soil and drop one seed in the hole. Cover the seed with soil using your foot.	Be careful not to make the hole too deep.

## 4. Tools for weed control

Name of tool	How to use	Warnings
<b>Hoe</b>	Fit the handle to the hoe head. Hold the handle in both hands and swing downward to dig holes or remove weeds from the soil.	Handle with care; can cause serious injury if handled carelessly.
<b>Dutch hoe</b>	Grab the handle with both hands. Make a sweeping movement with the hoe head on or just below the soil's surface. It cuts the weeds	Handle with care; can cause serious injury if handled carelessly.

	off the roots.	
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## 5. Tools for harvesting

Name of tool	How to use	Warnings
<b>Sickle</b>	Grab the handle with one hand. Gather wheat or a similar crop with the other hand to form a bundle. Put the cutting edge of the sickle blade to the bundle and pull strongly. The blade will cut the bundle.	Handle with care; can cause serious injury if handled carelessly.
<b>Sugar-cane knife</b>	Grab the handle and cut the sugarcane.	Handle with care; can cause serious injury if handled carelessly.
<b>Maize sheller</b>	Remove the maize cobs by hand from the plant. Put the cob in the sheller and turn the handle. The sheller's teeth will grind the kernel from the maize cob.	Handle with care; can cause injury to fingers.

## 6. Tools for transport

Name of tool	How to use	Warnings
<b>Wheelbarrow</b>	Load fertilizer, seeds, or any other load in the loading tray. Grab the two handles and lift the load until only the wheel is on the ground. Push the wheelbarrow forward.	Do not overload; it can cause serious injury to the back.
<b>Ox-cart</b>	Connect an ox with a harness to the cart. Load the cart and lead the animal forward. The cart will come along.	Do not overload. Treat the ox or mule well; make sure the animal gets water and rests during the day.
<b>Animal-drawn sledge</b>	Connect an ox or mule with a harness to the sledge. Load the sledge and lead the animal forward. The sledge will come along. Avoid rocky areas because the sledge will get stuck to the rocks.	Do not overload. Treat the ox or mule well; make sure the animal gets water and rests during the day.

# INSTRUCTIONS

## I. Product Knowledge

### Topic 26b: Handling Farm Tools

#### Materials needed

- Flip-sheet board with flip-sheets
- Markers (1 black, 1 blue, 1 green, 1 red)
- Colored cards

**Time needed:** 45 minutes

#### Preparations:

- Flip-sheet with the heading *Handling farm tools*
- Farm tools or the visuals from topic 30a
- Colored cards with the following farm tools (from session 26a):
  - *Machete*
  - *Axe*
  - *Pick*
  - *Shovel*
  - *Ox plow*
  - *Planting stick*
  - *Hoe*
  - *Sickle*
  - *Ox-cart*
  - *Sledge*

## Set up

- Attention:** Put the farm tools in front of you and remind participants that we looked at different farm tools in the previous session.
- Title:** Tell participants the title while showing the flip-sheet with the title: *Handling Farm Tools*.
- Credibility:** Explain your experience in handling farm tools
- Objectives:** To explain how to handle farm tools.
- Benefits:** When selling farm tools, you should be able to advise the customer on their use. Providing this information to customers will ensure that they return to your shop.
- Direction:** During this session, we will focus only on the most common farm tools. There will be additional information on other tools in the handouts as well.

## Delivery

### Explanation, Demonstration, Exercise, and Guidance:

1. Divide the participants into ten groups. Give each group one farm tool (or visual) and the colored card with the name of the farm tool. Each group must first discuss how to **use** the farm tool and then discuss if there are any **warnings** applicable on the use of this specific tool. After discussions, each group will **demonstrate** how to use the farm tool to the rest of the participants. Allow some time for discussions.
2. Start the **demonstrations**. For each demonstration, paste the colored card with the name of the farm tool and the visual on the wall and let the group demonstrate the use of the tool. Ask for comments and additions from the other participants. Summarize what the group demonstrated and add ideas (see fact sheet). Ask the group that demonstrated the tool if there are any special warnings. Repeat the warnings and add ideas if necessary (see fact sheet).
3. Let the groups demonstrate the use of their farm tools.

## Finish

- Summary:** Give a summary by repeating how to use each tool that was demonstrated.
- Questions:** Ask them why it is important to use farm tools correctly. Ask them why it is important for agri-input dealers to share this information with their farmer customers. Ask for instructions of the use of two or three tools.



**Next step:** Tell participants that the next time a customer comes into their shop to buy a farm tool, they should give him/her information on the tool's use, so that he/she will get the maximum benefit of the purchase.

Distribute the **fact sheet** to all participants.