

SMART Farm Trials

Results from Malawi - Malajira: One Acre Fund 2022-2023



OVERVIEW



17-Dec-22

12-May-23

Min

Temp.

(°C)

18.7

18.1

18.6

17.7

16.0

14.1

26.4

27.0

27.4

= left to right: Minimum and

Maximum Temperature

347.4

61.2

0.5

December

January

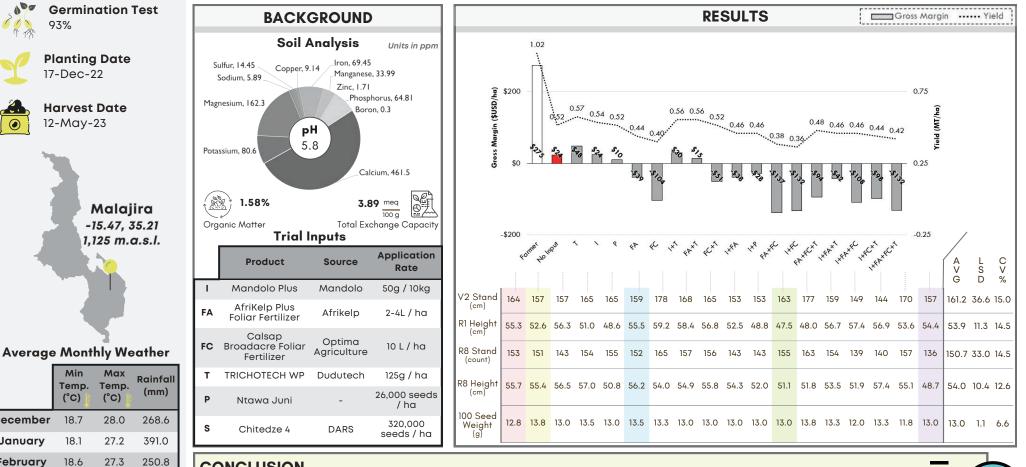
February

March

April

May

The input omission trial comprises 18 treatment combinations of Inoculum (I), Afrikelp Foliar Fertilizer (FA), Calsap Foliar Fertilizer (FC), Trichoderma (T), and Pigeon Pea seeds (P). Each set of 18 treatments were randomized and replicated 4 times. The "Chitedze 4" soybean variety (S) was planted in 3x5 m plots with a 5cm seed spacing. The "Ntawa Juni" pigeon pea variety was planted with seed spacing of 50cm. Each plot contained 4 rows with a 75cm row spacing. Seeds were treated with Mandolo inoculant prior to planting and trichoderma at planting. Afrikelp foliar fertilizer was sprayed at 21 days after planting. Calsap foliar fertilizer was sprayed at V2, R3, and R5 soybean developmental stages.



CONCLUSION

Due to the low yields across all treatments at the Malajira field site, a bundle recommendation could not be made.

Soybean development early in the growing season was good. Soybean seeds were planted early in the rainy season with germination rates above 90% and expected V2 stand counts. Significant disease and insect pressure was not reported, and soil fertility was comparable to other high yielding trial locations in Malawi. Despite this, yields across treatments were well below expectations. One possible explanation is flooding and damaged caused by cyclone Freddy in the Malajira region during March 2023.



Interested to learn more? Let us know!

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