

# FarmLens Ltd

Website: farmlens.africa | App: app.farmlens.africa | Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya



Crop details

## East African highland banana (matoke)

*Musa spp. (AAA-EA group)*

Family: Musaceae

Categories

Bananas & Plantains

Generated: 2026-04-11 06:48

### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Musaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	18.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	2
<b>Seasons</b>	1

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	perennial
<b>Days to harvest</b>	300-450
<b>Main uses</b>	Starchy cooking banana
<b>Pollination</b>	vegetative
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	E. Africa highlands

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	20 - 28 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	1200 - 2000 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	900 - 2000 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 6.8
<b>Soil type</b>	Deep, fertile loam; high organic matter
<b>Row spacing</b>	300 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	300 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	30 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	kg/ha (check local recommendation)

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 300-450 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for starchy cooking banana.

**Pollination:** Mainly vegetative; healthy flowers and pollinators improve fruit set.

**Where it grows:** E. Africa highlands. Grouped under: Bananas & Plantains.

**Best climate:** 20 - 28 °C; 1200 - 2000 mm/yr; up to about 2000 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 6.8; deep, fertile loam; high organic matter.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

**Planting**

Plant healthy suckers or tissue culture plants; mulch heavily; maintain 3 plants/mat.

**Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)**

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Planting	0	NPK 17-17-17	150 kg/ha	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	N/A
2	Vegetative	90	CAN 26% N	120 kg/ha	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	N/A
3	Bunching	180	MOP (K <sub>2</sub> O 60%)	100 kg/ha	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	N/A

**Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	40	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	120	kg/ha
N	Topdress	60	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress	80	kg/ha

**Field images****Varieties**

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Ng'ombe (AAA-EA)	KE	380	Preferred for matoke; high bunch weight

**Fertilizer recommendations**

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Planting	NPK 17-17-17	150	
Vegetative	CAN 26% N	120	

**Pests and diseases**

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
------	------	----------	------------

Banana weevil	pest	Tunnels in corm; plant snaps	Clean planting material; traps; field sanitation
Black Sigatoka	disease	Leaf streaks & necrosis	Desucker; remove old leaves; resistant cultivars

### **Yields**

<b><u>System</u></b>	<b><u>Typical</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>Max</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
rainfed smallholder	18	10	30	

### **Season calendars**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Planting</u></b>	<b><u>Harvest</u></b>
KE	High rainfall highlands	Mar–May / Oct–Nov	All year (after 12–15 mo)

### **Region suitability**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Suitability</u></b>
KE	High rainfall highlands	High

---

Source: **FarmLens Ltd** - farmlens.africa and app.farmlens.africa. Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.