



ONION SEED PRODUCTION

ALIVE-FNS Project
Northern Chin State – Myanmar

A sustainable technique for the upland farmers



Onion seed production to support production, local seed autonomy and valuing local varieties- Bulb to Bulb method



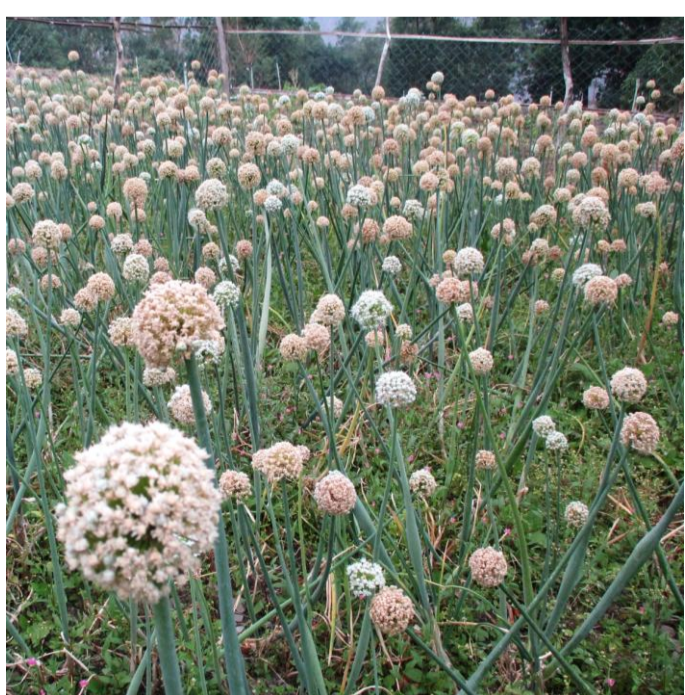
- 1- Select medium size onion bulb of 5 to 6 cm in diameter free of diseases, rot or blemish (do not use too small or too big bulbs) and of regular roundish shape
- 2- Prepare raised bed 3 feet wide, 6 to 9 inches depth, work the soil to have a well aerated fine texture and add manure or compost 7-10 bags for 100m2 (0.7- 1 kg/m2) depending on soil fertility



- 3- Sowing onion bulb at 6 inches between Plant and between Rows. It is important for seed production to keep wider spacing than for crop production
- 4- Irrigate the field in every tow days to maintain the moisture
- 5- Perform early weeding and mulch to conserve moisture, regulate temperature and control weeds



- 6- Roguing and selection : Remove weak, diseased, poor growth or distorted plant during vegetative and flowering stage
Removing odd plant is important for seed production to produce quality seeds



- 7- Harvest: Stop irrigation 2 weeks before harvest- Start harvest when majority of flower have dried- Cut or clip flower head and dry in a cool, well ventilated location for 2-3 weeks- Fully dry flower will drop clean seeds naturally- Rub flowers head over a mesh to free the seeds and winnow for removing debris- Store in a cool and dry place, away from sunlight and in a sealed container.

Condition and Benefit of Onion Seed Production

Onion seed production takes about 7 months from bulb to seed
 Plant in October- November and harvest in the month of April- May before the rainy season
 Onion require wintering cold temperature for several weeks
 Grow a minimum of 20 plants for diversity and good quality seed as onion is pollinated by insect
 Take particular care to select good planting material bulb of best quality, size, colour and shape, free of diseases