

# **Farm tools and equipment: Perform preventive maintenance of tools and equipment**

Farm tools, implement and equipment play an important role in crop production and their availability makes the work much easier but to get the best out of the tools and equipment, you must have good knowledge of the operation of the machines before using them.

## **Hand tools**

These are the most simple tools. They are used with bare hands to perform simple tasks in the garden and include the following;

A hand fork is used for weeding and mixing additives in the soil, and a hand cultivar is used for loosening the soil, and cultivating and removing weeds in the garden plants.

A hand trowel is used for loosening soil and transplanting seedlings. Spading fork is used for digging up root crops and turning over the materials in a compost heap.

The shovel is used for lifting, digging, and mixing soil. A hoe is used for breaking hard top soil and pulverizing soil.

Crowbar is used for digging big holes, digging out stones, and tree stumps. A pick mattock is a tool with a transverse blade head at one end and a pointed head at the other. It is used for digging canals, breaking hard topsoil, and digging up stones and tree trunks.

Dibbler is a tool used for making holes in the soil for planting seeds. Knives are used for grafting, marcotting, budding, or cutting plant trees.

Pruning shears are used for cutting twigs, leaves, and small branches of plants. A watering can is used for watering plants. Rake is used for gathering leaves and leveling the soil.

## **Farm implements**

These are accessories that are being pulled by working animals or mounted on machines eg tractors. These include a plow, harrow, and rotavator for pulverizing the soil.

## **Farm equipment**

These are machines used in crop production. They are used in land preparation and in transporting farm inputs and products. This equipment needs a highly skilled operator to use and includes a combined harvester for harvesting, a hand tractor used in pulling a plow and harrow, and a four-wheel tractor for pulling a disc plow and harrow.

## **preventative maintenance**

Do a check-up of the tool and equipment before use, clean them after use, and store them in a dry place.