Stone lines

You can use stones on the field profitable with building lines.

Often farmers have to many stones in their field but on the other hand have the problem, that the soil is reducing from year to year. The rain washes soil from the land which causes that the soil gets thin, dry and infertile. That‘s why your yield could become less.

Construction of stone lines

You can use the stones from your field and build a stone line with them. Especially on sloppy land it helps rain to run downhill slower. The stone lines ensure, that water sinks into the soil and plants are getting enough moist as well. The soil collects at the line and doesn‘t vanish anymore. Therefore, the field can rest better. Stone lines are particularly advantageous in areas where you have lots of rain seasons and heavy storms.

Step by step

Search for one side and make little ditches wherever you plan on laying the stones. If you have difficulties with finding out where to put the stones you could also ask a extension officer.

Then you make a line along the contour. Afterwards you can start laying the stone line. Make sure to build it along the slop without being uphill or downhill. First build big stones at the side that is more down and then add medium stones at the uphill side of the big stones. After this, you can also add small stones on top, to give a better hold. With the years stones could maybe fall down and you need to add some new ones.

After a few years you will recognize, that soil is collecting along the line. There, weeds and plants have a great place to grow. In 20 years you collect about 30 centimetre soil.

On the line you also collect water, which helps to keep the soil moist. You could for example plant papaya trees there, because they would get enough water.

Building stone lines is a lot of work, but it makes working on the field easier. It will help to make your soil moist and fertile.