

2.2.6 Daka, Pharaoh M. (2005). Effect of earthing up and planting date on yield of bambarra groundnuts (*Vigna subterranea* (L.) Verdc.). (Supervisors: Dr. D. M. N. Mbewe and Dr. D. M. Lungu).

The study was carried out at Msekera Regional Research Station Chipata during the 2000/01 cropping season which is situated in Agro ecological zone II with annual rainfall ranging between 800 to 1,000 mm per annum. The objectives of the study were to establish the yield responses of Bambara groundnut to different cultivation method and time of planting. The treatments were cultivars, planting dates and cultivation method. The factor cultivars comprised three land races of bambara groundnuts, namely Fubila, Kaziunde and Kaziundeliti. The planting date factor had three levels. The first planting date was December 28, the second was January 12 and the third was February 22, 2001. The third factor, cultivation method was of two levels, that is earthing and no earthing. A split-split plot design was used, with three landraces of Fubila,

Kaziunde and Kaziundeliti forming a main plot, planting dates were sub plot while the two cultivation methods were sub-sub plot. The parameters measured were number of days to 50% flowering, plant height, number of branches per plant, number of pods per plant, pod yield per plant, 100 seed weight, shelling %, and yield in kg/ha. The results showed that cultivation method (earthing up and non earthing) had no effect on yield. However, the planting date significantly affected plant height, number of pods per plot and days to 50% flowering.

