

Understand organic farming and sustainable agriculture approaches

Subject(s): Agricultural Science, Social Science, English

Grade(s): 10

Learning intention(s):

Understand the importance of organic farming/gardening towards sustainable agriculture

Lesson Instructions

(adapted from FAO (2009) 'Setting up and Running a School Garden: Teaching Tool kit, page 27)

1. The teacher introduces the concept of organic gardening/farming. Start by finding out current student understanding of organic gardening – what examples of organic gardening have they seen practiced at school or at home? Introduce terms such as composting, green manure, crop rotation, insecticides/pesticides, mulching and watering.
2. Ask students to work in pairs to answer the following questions (they can conduct research using the library or Internet at school to find answers) or take the work home and speak with local farmers or family members to get the answers):
 - a. Is it good to use compost in the garden? Why?
 - b. Why do farmers sometimes use fertiliser in the garden?
 - c. What is green manure? Why is it good?
 - d. What is mulching and what is the point of using it in the garden?
 - e. What is crop rotation? Is it a good idea? Why?
 - f. Why is it important to water plants? How does it help nutrient the soil/ plants?
 - g. What worms and insects are good or bad for the garden? Why?
 - h. Is it good to use insecticides/pesticides? Why/Why not?
3. Ask students to make a poster about sustainable farming to present to the whole class.
4. Display student posters on the wall.