

Understand the Importance of Organic Farming

Subject(s) Agriculture, English

Year(s) 7-9

Learning Intention

Understand the importance of organic farming and gardening in developing sustainable agriculture.

Links to Curriculum

Strands

- Agriculture – Introduction to Food Crops, Food security, Introduction to sustainable land management
- English – Research and Study skills, Listening, Speaking

Sub Strands

Agriculture

- 7.4 Improving agricultural production
- 7.16 Preparing to grow food crops
- 8.1 What is Food security?
- 9.5 Key issues in sustainable land management

English

- 7.17 Using the library/internet
- 8.5 Communication and Interaction

Learning Outcomes

Agriculture:

- 7.4.1 Understand contributions of improved agricultural practices
- 7.5.2.1 Explain the importance, functions and uses of soil.
- 7.12.3 Show skills in selecting different cropping methods to grow food.
- 8.1.2 Appreciate the importance of food security
- 9.6.3.1 Apply sustainable land management practices

English

- 7.17.4 Appreciate the use of a library as a place for study and research
- 7.17.5 Use a guide to surf the internet for information.
- 8.5.3 Demonstrate skills in using language creatively to describe an event, person or place competently in storytelling and conversations.
- 9.3.2 Listen to and understand a wide variety of speaking situations in both formal and informal situations and critically respond in other forms.

Teaching Activity

Note: This activity is adapted from FAO 2009, *Setting up and Running a School Garden: Teaching Tool kit*, p. 27.

Materials

- Poster paper – 1 sheet per pair

Activity 1: Introducing Organic Farming and Gardening

1. **Introduce** the concept of organic gardening/farming. Elicit students' current understanding of organic gardening – what examples of organic gardening have they seen practiced at school or at home?
2. **Introduce** and **define** key terms:
 - composting
 - green manure
 - crop rotation
 - insecticides and pesticides
 - mulching
 - watering

Ensure students write the terms and definitions in their workbooks



Credit: Flickr (ACIAR, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Activity 2: Researching Organic Farming and Gardening

1. **Arrange** students into pairs or small groups to complete the research activity.
2. **Choose** the structure of the activity:
 1. Each pair or group researches and answers all the questions.
 2. Each pair or group researches and answers one question and presents their findings to the class.
3. **Assign** the question(s) to each pair. Student research may include:
 - school library
 - internet
 - family discussion
 - interviews with local farmers and gardeners.

Activity 3: Posters and Presentations

Student pairs create and display a poster answering their question(s). Optionally, pairs present their work to the class.