Understand organic farming and sustainable agriculture approaches

Subject(s): **Agriculture, Social Science, English**

Grade(s): **8-9**

Learning intention(s):

Understand the importance of organic farming/gardening towards sustainable agriculture

Links to Curriculum

Strands

- Agriculture – Introduction to Food Crops, Food security, Introduction to Sustainable Land management
- Social Science – Environment and Population
- English – Research and Study Skills, Listening, Writing

Sub strands

Agriculture

- 8.1 What is Food security
- 9.5 Key issues in sustainable land management
- 9.6 Addressing sustainable land management issues

Social Science

- 8.8 Weather, Climate and Vegetation of Solomon Islands.

English

- 8.5 Communication and Interaction
- 9.11 Writing styles

Learning Outcomes

Agriculture

- 8.1.2 Appreciate the importance of food security
- 9.5.1 understand the effects of population pressure on land
- 9.6.3 Apply sustainable land management practices

Social Science

- 8.8.2.1 Explain how weather and climate influence the vegetation, human lifestyles and farming systems in the Solomon Islands.

English

- 8.5.3 Demonstrate skills in using language creatively to describe an event, person or place competently in storytelling or conversations.
- 9.11.1 compose a wide variety of writing styles to suit a variety of purposes using formal and informal styles of writing to express ideas effectively.

Lesson Instructions

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

Materials

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With support from Melbourne Climate Futures, The University of Melbourne & The DBH Foundation

- Chart or butcher's paper
- Access to the Library/ Internet for research purposes (optional)
- Access to local farmers or family members to ask questions.

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.