

BUILDING PRACTICAL SKILLS IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

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The foundation for training people for careers in the dynamic and multidimensional area of agriculture is agricultural education. The emphasis on developing practical abilities that go beyond theoretical knowledge is a crucial component of this education. This paper explores the value of developing practical skills in agriculture education and how it affects the production of skilled and resourceful professionals.

Agricultural competence is mostly based on practical abilities (Onanuga, 2015), which enable people to apply academic knowledge to real-world situations. These abilities cover a wide range in the context of agricultural education, from practical tasks like planting, growing, and harvesting crops to becoming proficient with sophisticated agricultural machines. Gaining practical skills guarantees that students are prepared to handle the difficulties and intricacies of contemporary agriculture.

Developing practical skills in agriculture education has several benefits, one of which is improving students' problem-solving capabilities. Students gain the ability to assess circumstances, decide wisely, and solve problems that crop up in agricultural practices through hands-on activities and simulated scenarios. These problem-solving abilities are extremely beneficial in a field where flexibility and rapid decision-making are frequently needed.

Additionally, having practical skills helps one comprehend agricultural processes on a deeper level. Students who participate in practical activities learn about the real-world applications of crop management, soil conservation, and livestock husbandry

rather than merely relying on abstract ideas. This all-encompassing comprehension strengthens the bond between theory and practice, improving the learning process as a whole.

The cultivation of a strong work ethic is intimately related to the incorporation of practical skills into agricultural education. Pupils that participate in agribusiness initiatives, farm management, and animal care develop discipline and accountability. These traits not only help people succeed in the agriculture industry but also help people develop into well-rounded people who can succeed in a variety of professional settings.

Furthermore, developing practical skills in agriculture education is in line with the changing needs of the sector. Professionals in agriculture must be skilled in using contemporary equipment and instruments as the industry grows more and more technology-driven. Students who receive practical instruction in the use of automated systems, drones, and precision farming technology will be better equipped to manage the quickly evolving field of modern agriculture.

To produce capable and adaptable professionals, agriculture education must place a strong emphasis on developing practical skills. In addition to bolstering theoretical knowledge, hands-on learning fosters a strong work ethic, a thorough awareness of agricultural processes, and problem-solving skills. Agricultural education guarantees that graduates are adequately equipped to make a significant contribution to the agricultural sector by incorporating experiential learning into the curriculum. This promotes sustainability and innovation in this crucial industry.

References:

Onanuga, P. A. (2015). An Examination of Important Competencies Necessary for Vocational Agriculture in Selected Senior Secondary Students in Ijebu North Local Government Area, Nigeria. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 6(13), 196. ISSN 2222-1735 (Paper), ISSN 2222-288X (Online). Retrieved from <http://www.iiste.org/Journals/index.php/JEP/article/view/24671>