

HYDROPONICS: HIGH-TECH FARMING

by:

THELMA M. DATU

Teacher III, Sapa Elementary School

A farmer is more than just a person working in the fields and caring for his animals... no, a farmer is much more. They are the one who feeds us.

Philippines is known as the rice granary in the world. Asian countries imported rice from our country before. We also taught other Asians how to plant rice. As the years passed by, the production of rice diminished.

We feel the effect of global warming. We experienced drought, during summer known as El Nino, and so much water during rainy season, called as La Nina. Also, the prices of fertilizers, seedlings and irrigation started to become a problem.

The farmers started to sell their plowing fields to some realtor developers to survive for their loss and able to pay for their debts. The conversion of rice fields into subdivisions became rampant. The law stated the prohibition of selling rice fields.

The government and other NGO's trying to find other alternatives for farming to save the agriculture industry. They develop 'Hydroponics Farming', it enhanced plant yields. Hydroponics is the technique of growing plants using a water-based nutrient solution rather than soil. Hydroponics plants produce greater yield of fruits and vegetables and even rice. Plants are more densely spaced together compared to the size of land that would be needed to grow the same number of plants.

Hydroponics started to bloom its industry, less and even in compact space that we can even do it at home. Hydroponic production systems are used by small farmers,

hobbyists and commercial enterprises. We need less capital to start hydroponics farming but also give us double harvest products.

As we experienced shortage of rice and other agricultural products it is a best option to adapt, introduce and learn the hydroponics farming by the students even as early in elementary. A simple stage of processes and goes it more challenging until they reach the senior high school. One of them will be our future high-tech farmer.

Hydroponics farming if better introduce, adapt and develop will benefit our local farmers that bounce positively in our economy. It is significantly more profitable than traditional farming.

References:

Retrieved from: <https://www.nal.usda.gov>

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan