

ORGANIC FARMING AS A HANDS-ON LEARNING TOOL FOR GRADE 9 AND 10 STUDENTS

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Agricultural Crop Production as one of the specializations in TLE subject for Grades 9 and 10 curriculum offers the learners to engage in farming. Organically grown vegetables and fruits are rising due to the growing awareness of environmental and ecological concerns, as excessive chemical fertilizers are detrimental to one's health. This has led to an increasing number of farmers wanting to adopt strategies that protect the environment, conserve valuable resources such as water, produce safe and healthy products, and employ sustainable and effective agricultural practices. As students are introduced to farming at a young age, it is important to teach them how to grow vegetables organically, and to them develop eco-friendly and responsible farming habits early on.

It is important to highlight hands-on learning in the use of organic fertilizer and pesticides in the growth and development of the crops. This approach allows students explore and create their own organic fertilizer and pesticides, while recognizing the importance of organically produced crops in one's health. It also promotes deeper understanding of practical agricultural skills.

There are a lot of organic fertilizers that the student can make, such as composting, and different fermentation processes. Students may do the activity alone, by partner or by group. Through these hands-on activities, learners can develop a sense of responsibility in taking care of plants, while also becoming more health conscious at a young age. Students may also learn the rewards of hard work as well as delayed gratification, as growing crops takes time and effort. In addition, as organic farming

continues to grow in popularity, students may also take the opportunity to teach others about what they have learned in this subject.

Hands-on learning activities transform passive learning into an immersive experience, capturing students' attention and developing deeper connection to the subject matter. Based on National Training Laboratories, learners retain 75% of what they learn when they practice it and 90% when they teach it to someone else or use it immediately, underscoring the effectiveness of hands-on learning (Laurenti 2024).

References:

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