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## **SDC AGRONOMIST SITE VISIT AT CUUN KOBICIYE PROJECT.**

### **INTRODUCTION.**

The SDC Kobciye team recently embarked on a 2-day site visit mission to the Cuun farm, where they sought to evaluate the existing agricultural practices in place to identify areas that could be improved in order to increase crop yield and overall productivity. During the visit beneficiaries got a one-on-one training experience from the agronomists as some of the farm management practices challenges were being addressed. As part of the visit, key observations were recorded, including a strong wind predicament, lack of knowledge on mulching, poor pest and diseases control, and outdated farm management practices. The team also identified an insufficient understanding of crops nutrition and spraying programs, underutilization of available water, and the potential to harness the rich soil texture and land topography for maximum crop yields. With these observations in hand, the team established clear objectives, uncovered significant findings, and crafted recommendations and conclusions aimed at enhancing the farm's productivity and profitability.

### **Objectives:**

- To assess the current agricultural practices taking place on the farm.
- To identify areas for improvement.
- To provide recommendations for increasing crop yield and productivity.
- To promote good agricultural practices to ensure legitimate and sustainable crop production, which is the overall objective for Kobciye project.



## **Findings:**

### **1. Good soil texture and land topography for maximum crop yields:**

During the assessment, it was observed that the soil texture and land topography in the farm were favorable for maximum crop yields. However, the farmers are yet to take full advantage of these favorable conditions.

### **2. Lack of knowledge on crop nutrition and spraying programs leading to underutilization of available water and poor yields:**

There is a lack of knowledge regarding crop nutrition and proper spraying programs. As a result, the farm is underutilizing available water and experiencing poor yields.

### **3. Pest and diseases as significant concerns, requiring exceptional pesticides and fungicides:**

Pest and disease infestations are significant concerns in the farm, which requires exceptional pesticides and fungicides to mitigate.

### **4. Improper mulching leading to excessive soil moisture evaporation issues:**

The farm is currently not implementing proper mulching techniques. This practice is crucial for managing soil moisture evaporation, which is currently excessive due to the harsh weather conditions in the region.

**5. Currently relying only on basic agricultural practices:** The farmers are currently relying only on basic agricultural practices, which is limiting its productivity potential.

## **Recommendations:**

1. Designate two fields for field trials and research for effective learning and good productivity, with top priority given to tomatoes: To improve productivity and build a lasting learning experience for the farmers, two fields should be designated one for field trials and the other for research purposes. Top priority should be given to tomatoes, which are a high-value crop that can yield good profits when produced optimally.



2. Increase boreholes and dams for optimal crop growth: To optimize crop growth, additional boreholes and dams should be built to ensure an adequate water supply for irrigation and farm management purposes.
3. Use good certified seeds, exceptional pesticides and fungicides for improved yield and nutrition: To achieve improved yields and nutrition in the crops, high-quality certified seeds, exceptional pesticides and fungicides should be used with the guidance and training of the agronomists.
4. Implement proper mulching techniques to manage evaporation in some crops: Proper mulching techniques should be implemented to manage soil moisture evaporation in crops that require it.
5. Follow good agricultural practices strictly for better results and legitimate yields: To achieve better results and desired yields, good agricultural practices should be strictly followed. These practices include proper irrigation, crop rotation, and pest and disease management.

### **Conclusion:**

Overall, the SDC Kobciye team found Cuun farm to have significant potential for increased crop yield and productivity, but several factors were hindering this. The team emphasizes the importance of following good agricultural practices, including crop nutrition and spraying programs, proper mulching, and the use of exceptional pesticides and fungicides. Implementation of these recommendations should lead to more sustainable and profitable farming practices. By taking the necessary steps to improve productivity, Cuun farm has the potential to become a leading agricultural producer in the region.

**ANNEXES DETAILING ALL THE STEPS TAKEN THROUGHOUT THE SITE ASSESSMENT.**

CROP NAME	CATEGORY & DAMAGES	DISEASES & PESTS IDENTIFIED	CROP STAGE	CROP NUTRITION	CROP MANAGEMENT
<b>Tomatoes</b>	Overcrowded and poor seedlings.	Early blight, red spider mites	Nursery, vegetative, flowering & fruiting stage.	Required	Good nursery management required.
<b>Onions</b>	Good & needs improvement in spacing.	Purple blotch	Nursery, vegetative & maturity stages	Required	Good nursery management required & crop protection required.
<b>Hot peppers</b>	Good & needs improvement in spacing.	Aphids, leaf miners & yellowing	Transplanting, Vegetative and harvesting	Required	Good spacing and crop management required.
<b>Capsicum</b>	Stunted growth with small fruits	Yellowing & red spider mites	Vegetative and maturity	Required	Good crop management required.
<b>Watermelon</b>	Early disease sign.	Leaf blight, Aphids & White flies.	Flowering stage	Required	Good crop management required.
<b>Spinach</b>	Generally good but Poor spacing and poor pruning.	Black spots	Transplanting & Vegetative stage	Required	Good crop management required
<b>Carrots</b>	Poor spacing and soil hard pan	Yellowing	Planting and Vegetative	Required	Good crop management required.
<b>Lettuce</b>	Healthy but in bad shape	Leaf spot, bortritis, downey mildew and bottom rot.	Vegetative & maturity	Required	Good management required.
<b>Okra</b>	Good		Vegetative & fruiting	Required	Good crop management required.
<b>Pawpaw</b>	Damaged with diseases & pests	Downy mildew, Leaf spot, white mould, mealy bugs and root rot.	Flowering & Fruiting stage	Required	Good crop management required.
<b>Lemon</b>	Damaged with diseases & pests	Leaf curl, Anthracnose, leaf spot, psyllid, black mould, sooty mold, mealy bugs and leprosis.	Vegetative & Fruiting stages	Required	Good Crop management required.
<b>Pomegranate</b>	Lacks nutrition and wate	Soft spot, gray mold, white mold	Flowering & Fruiting stage	Required	Good crop management Required.
<b>Guavas</b>	Damaged with diseases & pests	Anthracnose, white flies and fruit rot.	Vegetative and Fruiting stages	Required	Good crop management required.
<b>Date Palm</b>	Not easy to harvest (very tall)		Flowering & Fruiting stage	Required	Good crop management required.

## The following activities carried during the visit.

1.Explaining to farmers on how to do mulching on crops like Tomatoes,sweet pepper,hot pepper,watermelon,spinach etc and the benefits of doing mulching in crops.This helps in control of evaporation, retaining soil moisture,reducing soil erosion, Suppresses weeds and providing nutrients as the materials decomposes.



3. Identification of pests and diseases in Lemon, also indicating results of lack of nutrition, sooty mold, leaf curl, powdery mildew, Anthracnose and mealy bugs.



4. Showing the results in pomegranate fruit tree on diseases and pests, the fruit affected by fungal diseases and pests like white mold, soft spots, gray mold, rotten arils, discoloration and cracking.



5. Pawpaw affected by wrinkled, curled appearance caused by fungal diseases. Powdery mildew and leaf spots seems to be a serious problem to most famers.





6. Pawpaw loosing fruits affected by white mould anthracnose and black spots.



8. Carrots planted with the organic manure, nutrients wiped out by flood irrigation leaving the crop without nutrition.  
Demonstrating the techniques of applying the compost manure to Carrots.



7. Pawpaw losing fruits due to unpollinated flowers, low stigmatic receptive, unfavorable climate like wind, hormone imbalance in fruits and defective perfect flowers.



9. Compost manure emerged in one place after it has been wiped out by flood irrigation leaving the Carrots without nutrition.

This may cause stunted growth, discoloration and due to lack of carotene synthesis, plants may also lack root color.



10. Showing results on how to apply compost manure to onions for exceptional results of crop nutrition.



11. Direction and illustration of good spacing in onions for preponderant bulbs covered.



12. Land prepared for Carrots and demonstrating on how to apply compost manure and where to place it. Also where to plant the seeds for exceptional long rooting.



13. Hot pepper with nitrogen and potassium deficiency. This is a common problem in most farms.





14. Unpruned spinach with thin leaves. GAP given to farmers on how to be excuted.



15. Single Pruned spinach showing positive results, validating crop rotation to avoid diseases and pests from crops of the same family.



16. Soil compacted, all the nutrients eradicated resulting to stunted growth in spinach and yellowing.



17. Water depriving compost manure from Onions to the slope side. Establishing how to apply the compost and administered to the plant for good results.



18. Overcrowded tomatoes on the field due to lack of proficiency on spacing.



19. Substantiating good spacing for spinach and gigantic leaves.



20. Early blight and stem rot in tomatoes. Early fungal control required.



21. Testing the hardpan and texture of the soil in a graveyard greenhouse where drip system is abandoned.





22. Uprooted Hot pepper. This is a very big loss to farmers and it can be predetermined by harvesting the mature pepper then granulated for future use.



**THE END.**