

FARMER TO FARMER - SHARING ORGANIC PRACTICES

GROWING ORGANIC CROP NURSERY

Shortage or unavailability of planting material is a common challenge farmer's face. Seedling nurseries are the solution. At Napil Rural Training Centre, Middle Bush on Tanna Island, Vanuatu, youth farmers grow their own organic nursery.

The Structure

The nursery structure is a simple A-Frame structure. Built inside are tables, raised off the ground to keep seedlings safe from pests like caterpillars. The elevation prevents the splash of rain on the ground from damaging plants. It also prevents fungal infection. Only untreated wood is used. A shade cloth approved under organic certification rules is used.



• Tables



• Shade Cloth



• Untreated wood

Growing seedlings

Instead of throwing seeds directly onto the soil to grow them, farmers prefer to use seed trays to control their growth. This seeding method saves seeds as well. One seed is planted into each slot of the tray. The Pacific Organic Standard allows only organic seeds. However, if there are no organic seeds, some treated seeds are allowed and must be washed thoroughly (refer to seed washing information sheet) before they are used.



Step 1

Fill trays with previously sterilised and cooled potting mix (refer to cooking soil info sheet).

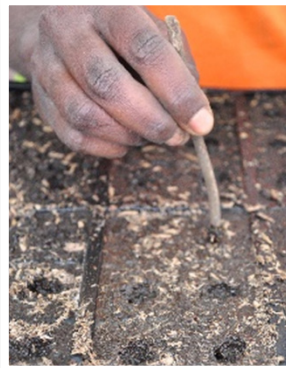
Step 2

Water filled potting tray well.



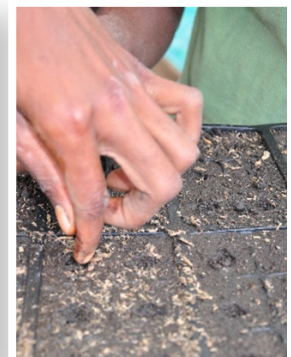
Step 3

Make a small indentation or hole into each slot. Only about half an inch deep. You can do this with your finger or use a small stick.



Step 4

Place a seed into the hole. Cover back with the potting mix. Water well.



This information sheet is produced in partnership with the youth of Napil Rural Training Center, Farm Support Association, the Sustainable Development Goals Fund, UNDP Pacific, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Pacific Community and the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community.