

FARMER TO FARMER - SHARING ORGANIC PRACTICES

GROWING ORGANIC PEANUTS

Peanuts also known as the groundnut and classified as the *Arachis Hypogaea* is a legume crop grown for its edible seeds. Highly nutritious, farming communities of Tanna Island in Vanuatu use peanuts in their meals. They also earn an income from it. Up to about 400 organic peanut farmers supply Nasi Tuan Christian Services peanut processing facility with peanuts. The farmers are from Central Tanna like Middle Bush, Lowkatai and Lenakel in West Tanna and Lounabahiou in North Tanna and the outer islands like Erraowmango. Nasi Tuan peanuts are sold in various tourist locations, Au Bon Marche the biggest supermarket chain in Vanuatu, in Noumea and recently Australia as fried, salted, chilli, garlic and roasted peanuts.

Step 1

Sort out seeds for planting. These are the rejected peanut seeds that are either damaged or small.



Damaged Peanuts



Step 2

Dig about two centimetre deep lines in the ground spaced about 60 centimetres apart. The lines on an average sized farm ranges from 20 to 80 meters in length.



Lines are 60 centimetres apart





Step 3

Using a ruler, measure out a stick about 10 centimetres in length. Use the stick to space the seeds apart. Seed holes are two centimetres deep. Only one seed is planted every ten centimetres. Once done, cover the seeds with soil. The seedbed is not watered.



Step 4

Weed seedbeds when the plants germinate one week after planting. Weeding occurs again when the plant is two weeks old. Hilling or piling soil around the base of the plant occurs when the peanut plant is about three weeks old.



Step 5

Visits to the peanut field stop when the plant is four weeks old (60 days). This is to prevent animals following farmers from damaging the plants.

A peanut is ready for harvesting between 80 - 100 days from planting.



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.



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