

FARMER TO FARMER - SHARING ORGANIC PRACTICES

WASHING SEEDS FOR ORGANIC NURSERIES

To pass the requirements of the Pacific Organic Standard, the rule book that guides organic agriculture development in the Pacific and achieve organic certification, seeds used on an organic farm must be organic themselves. If organic seeds, seedlings and planting materials are not commercially available, then conventional seed (not chemically treated), seedlings and planting material may be used. Seeds treated with chemicals shall be used only as a last resort and shall be cleaned of any chemicals before they are brought on to the property.

It is important to note that not all chemically treated seeds can be allowed - systemic seed treatments are not allowed as the substance cannot be cleaned, (that means treatments that enter the system of the seed, the sprout, all part of the plant, up to harvest and stay in the soil, and contaminates the next crops). Before use of treated seeds farmers must identify and maintain records of the treatment substance.

For seeds where the chemical can be washed off follow the following steps.

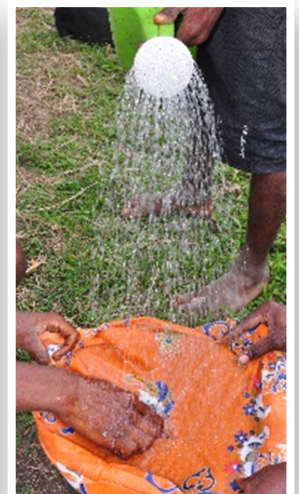
Step 1

Place a piece of cloth across the mouth of a bucket. It serves as a sieve.



Step 2

Estimate how many seeds you need. Sprinkle them into the centre of the cloth. This spreads them out to allow the water to wash them thoroughly. Pour water over seeds. The water washes the seeds and the chemical residues dissolve and pass through the cloth into the bucket.





Step 3

Gather cloth sides together, carefully ensuring seeds remain inside. Gently squeeze out water from cloth, making sure it drips into the bucket, where the rest of the chemically infused water is.

Step 4

Dry seeds. Take bucket of water from the garden, away from the plants, in a secure dumping place that is not part of the organic land and pour out chemical water. This protects the integrity of the organic farm by preventing chemical water contamination.



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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