

Vanga Teachers College

AGRICULTURE

INTEGRATED FARMING

POULTRY

PIGGERY

FORESTRY

CASH CROPPING

Course Outline

INTRODUCTION

A significant proportion of the Solomon Island people are subsistence dwellers, providing their own food. Others have some cash crop, such as copra, but still grow their own food. Some sell vegetables in the local markets as a way of obtaining cash to purchase other goods, pay school fees etc. So agriculture is a very significant aspect of life in the Solomon Islands and an important part of the economy.

Pigs and poultry (eggs and/or meat), cattle, honey bee and fishing are also important parts of the culture.

It is important, therefore that people understand all aspects of agriculture if they are to maximise their efforts and make best use of their resources.

As well as the skills needed for growing good crops, students will be taught the importance of good land management, sustainability of resources, pest control, different methods of farming, integration of all aspects of agriculture - animals, fish, trees, plantation crops, gardens, etc.

It is essential that there be a well trained and skilled workforce to meet these emerging needs. Instructors in Rural Training Centres can play a leading role in delivering these skills to the rural areas of the country.

COURSE

The course is designed primarily to teach practical skills of agriculture, including aspects of gardening, cash crops, animal husbandry, integration, marketing and management.

INTEGRATED FARMING

This is a major component of the course with time allocations as indicated above. Both theory and practical aspects are covered. Students work in the Centre's vegetable project and gain practical knowledge of all aspects of running a vegetable project as an income generating project.

GARDENING

Each week students spend on average 5 hours working in the school food gardens producing the various root crops for consumption at school by the staff and students. This segment is all practical. The theoretical aspects are covered in the Integrated farming segment

POULTRY

This is a major component of the course. Both theory and practical aspects are covered. Students work in the Centre's poultry project and gain practical knowledge of all aspects of running a poultry project as an income generating project as well as village-based poultry projects.

PIGGERY

This is a major component of the course. Both theory and practical aspects are covered. Students work in the Centre's piggery project and gain practical knowledge of all aspects of running a piggery project as an income generating project as well as village-based projects

RICE

Students spend time throughout the year working in the Centre's rice project and gain practical experience of all aspects of rice production from nursery and site preparation through to processing and marketing.

PLANTATION CROPS

Students spend time throughout the year working in the Centre's coconut and cocoa plantation and gain practical experience of all aspects of coconut production and processing and marketing.

HONEY BEE

Students work in the Centre's Honey bee project and gain practical experience in all aspects of the project.

INTEGRATED FARMING

COURSE OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION

- ❖ Definition of agriculture
- ❖ Importance of agriculture in the Solomon Islands

2. METHODS OF AGRICULTURE

- ❖ Hunter-gatherer
- ❖ Subsistence
- ❖ Shifting
- ❖ Commercial
- ❖ Integrated

3. SOILS

- ❖ What soil is made of
- ❖ Soil structure
- ❖ Soil fertility
- ❖ Fertilisers
- ❖ Soil preservation
- ❖ Causes of soil degradation

4. GARDENING - AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM

- ❖ Site selection and preparation
- ❖ Types of garden plots
- ❖ Advantages and disadvantages of each type
- ❖ Crop rotation

5. NURSERY

- ❖ Definition
- ❖ Types of nursery
- ❖ Soils for nursery
- ❖ Seed selection
- ❖ Sowing the seeds in the nursery
- ❖ Seedling / nursery management
- ❖ Pricking the seedlings
- ❖ Hardening off
- ❖ Soil preparation for transplanting
- ❖ Transplanting seedlings

6. VEGETABLE GARDENING

- ❖ Preparing the bed
- ❖ Spacings for various seeds/seedlings
- ❖ Planting seeds/seedlings
- ❖ Management of garden
- ❖ Harvesting
- ❖ Marketing

7 ROOT CROPS - Taro, yam, kumara, pana, cassava.

- ❖ Definition of root crop
- ❖ Importance of these crops
- ❖ Planting materials
- ❖ Land preparation
- ❖ Planting time
- ❖ Weed control
- ❖ Disease and pest control
- ❖ Harvesting

8 BANANAS

- ❖ Land site and preparation
- ❖ Spacing
- ❖ are of plants
- ❖ Insects and diseases
- ❖ Harvesting
- ❖ The place of bananas in the integrated farming situation

9 PINEAPPLE

- ❖ Land site and preparation
- ❖ Spacing
- ❖ Care of plants
- ❖ Insects and diseases
- ❖ Harvesting
- ❖ The place of pineapple in the integrated farming situation

10 COCONUT

- ❖ Land site and preparation
- ❖ Spacing
- ❖ Care of plants
- ❖ Insects and diseases
- ❖ Harvesting
- ❖ The place of coconut in the integrated farming situation

11 RICE

- ❖ Land site and preparation
- ❖ Spacing
- ❖ Care of plants
- ❖ Insects and diseases
- ❖ Harvesting
- ❖ The place of coconut in the integrated farming situation

12 FRUIT TREES

13 ANIMALS IN THE INTEGRATED FARMING SYSTEM

- ❖ POULTRY
- ❖ PIGS
- ❖ HONEY BEE
- ❖ FISH

14 FORESTRY

- ❖ Importance of forests for agriculture
- ❖ Forest resources

PIGGERY

COURSE OUTLINE

1 ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES TO PIG PRODUCTION

2 UNDERSTANDING THE PIG

- ❖ Feeding and digestion
- ❖ Alimentary canal
- ❖ Growth and development
- ❖ Reproduction
- ❖ Behaviour
- ❖ Effect of climate and temperature
- ❖ Stress

3 SYSTEMS OF PRODUCTION

- ❖ traditional
- ❖ semi-intensive
- ❖ intensive
- ❖ extensive systems
- ❖ integrated systems

4 BREEDS

5 FEEDING

- ❖ Types of food
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Food intake
- ❖ Mixing feed

6 HOUSING

- ❖ Pig productivity and production
- ❖ Design of houses
- ❖ Boar housing
- ❖ Farrowing and weaning

7 HEALTH

- ❖ Parasites
- ❖ Infectious diseases

8 PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT

- ❖ Stockmanship
- ❖ Boars
- ❖ Sows
- ❖ Farrowing
- ❖ Piglets
- ❖ Lactating sows
- ❖ Creep feeding
- ❖ Weaning
- ❖ Feeding systems
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Recording
- ❖ Castrating

9 PROCESSING AND MARKETING

- ❖ Slaughtering
- ❖ Hygiene
- ❖ Meat quality
- ❖ Marketing

POULTRY

COURSE OUTLINE

MAJOR TOPICS

- ❖ The role of Chickens in Agriculture
- ❖ Chicken physiology
- ❖ Nutrition and Feeding
- ❖ Breeds of Chicken suitable for the Solomons
- ❖ Layer and Broiler Management
- ❖ Breeding Chickens
- ❖ Housing Chickens
- ❖ Prevention of Stress and Disease
- ❖ Systems of keeping Chickens
- ❖ Chicken Anatomy
- ❖ Reproduction
- ❖ Chicken Behaviour
- ❖ Meat Quality and Butchering
- ❖ Ducks and other Poultry

