

Growing Vegetables



Agriculture

ACAT's Skills Development Series

GROWING VEGETABLES

ACAT's SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Agriculture



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COURSE OUTCOMES

You should be able to:

- Use the soil and water that is available in such a way that your present as well as your future needs will be satisfied,
- Earn an income through the use of affordable practices,
- Gain relevant competencies to achieve the course outcomes.

MODULE OUTCOMES

You should be able to:

- Select a suitable site for a vegetable garden,
- Identify the different kinds of vegetables,
- Lay-out and establish a vegetable production unit,
- Learn how to improve soil fertility,
- Plant seeds and seedlings,
- Produce and care for the vegetables you grow,
- Harvest and store the vegetables you grow,
- Plan on-going production and marketing (future crops).

Given:

- A self-study module on vegetable production where the learner is invited to participate in hands-on vegetable growing on a relevant scale.
- Relevant and available visual instructional materials to support the module.

Activities

- Individual and group participation in vegetable production methods and techniques as suggested in this module.
- Participation in group discussion.
- Follow instructions in carrying out individual and group tasks.
- Conduct self-tests.
- Conduct standard tests.

Criteria for successful completion of module:

- Satisfactory completion of the outcome-based performance tasks.
- Obtain at least 60% in self-tests and practical tests.
- Obtain at least 60% in standard test.

GROWING VEGETABLES

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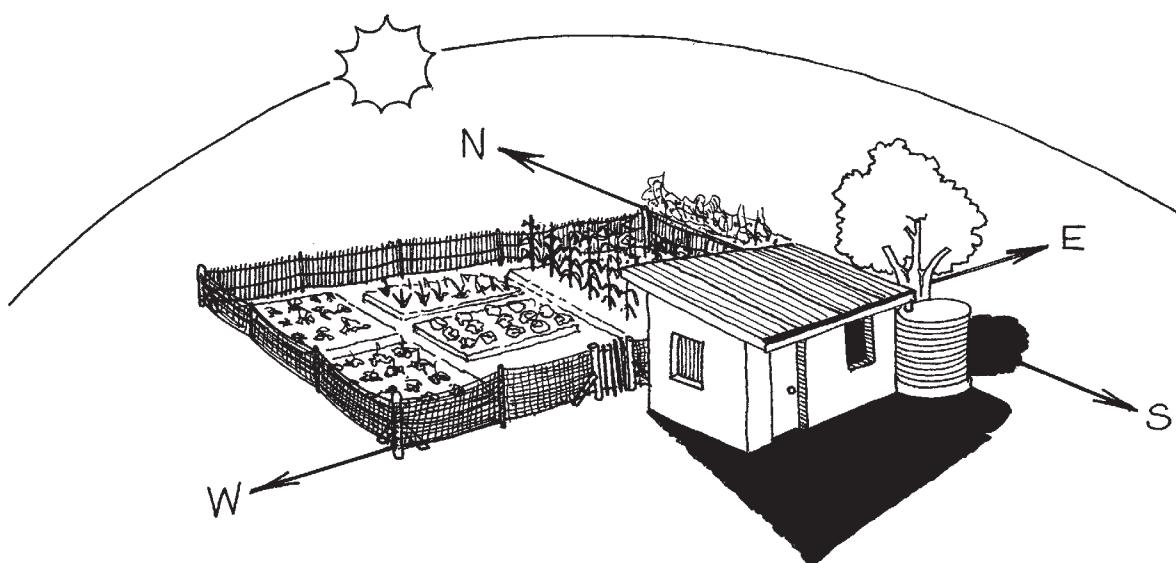
LESSON 1

SELECTING A SUITABLE SITE

Outcome: You will be able to select a suitable site to establish your vegetable garden.

1. Position of the garden

Climate and the choice of the site for your vegetable garden are very important for the successful growing of vegetables. Plan the vegetable garden so that it gets maximum sunshine. It should not be on the south side, as in the winter there will be long shadows from the buildings, trees and other structures.



Vegetables prefer full sun, and there should be a minimum of six hours of sunshine daily. No vegetables like to grow in the shade. The best position is north-east facing where the vegetables will receive early morning sun when warmth is needed, and this position may give some protection from cold winds in winter and hot afternoon sun in summer.

Trees should not be too close to a vegetable garden, because they will take up much of the nutrients and moisture from the soil by their root systems.

The vegetable plot should be located in that section of the garden where the **soil is fertile!!**

2. Sloping ground

A vegetable garden that is sited on sloping ground needs more preparation and attention than one on level ground. The biggest problem is soil erosion and the best solution is to terrace the area, preferably so that you can reach the width of the bed from one side, across the slope with narrow paths between. The levels of the beds must always be maintained, particularly during the rainy season.

A site that is **level** with **good drainage** and with a **slight slope** is most suitable. If there are uneven places on the site, they can be filled with topsoil taken from higher places. *Avoid disturbing the soil too much!*

If the site available is on a very steep slope, you will have to do something to conserve your soil. The following methods of conservation can be applied:

- **Control run-off water** by means of **drainage furrows**. These furrows should be shallow and should slope gently. Plant grass in the furrows or pack stones in them to prevent the soil from washing away.

