



LAND PREPARATION

Technical Guide

• Field selection

Things to consider:

- » Available water source
- » Available light (direction and duration - at least 6 hours/day)
- » Field history (previous crops, insects and diseases, flooding)
- » Soil quality
- » Topography (contour for sloping area)



ENGLISH



• Cleaning the field

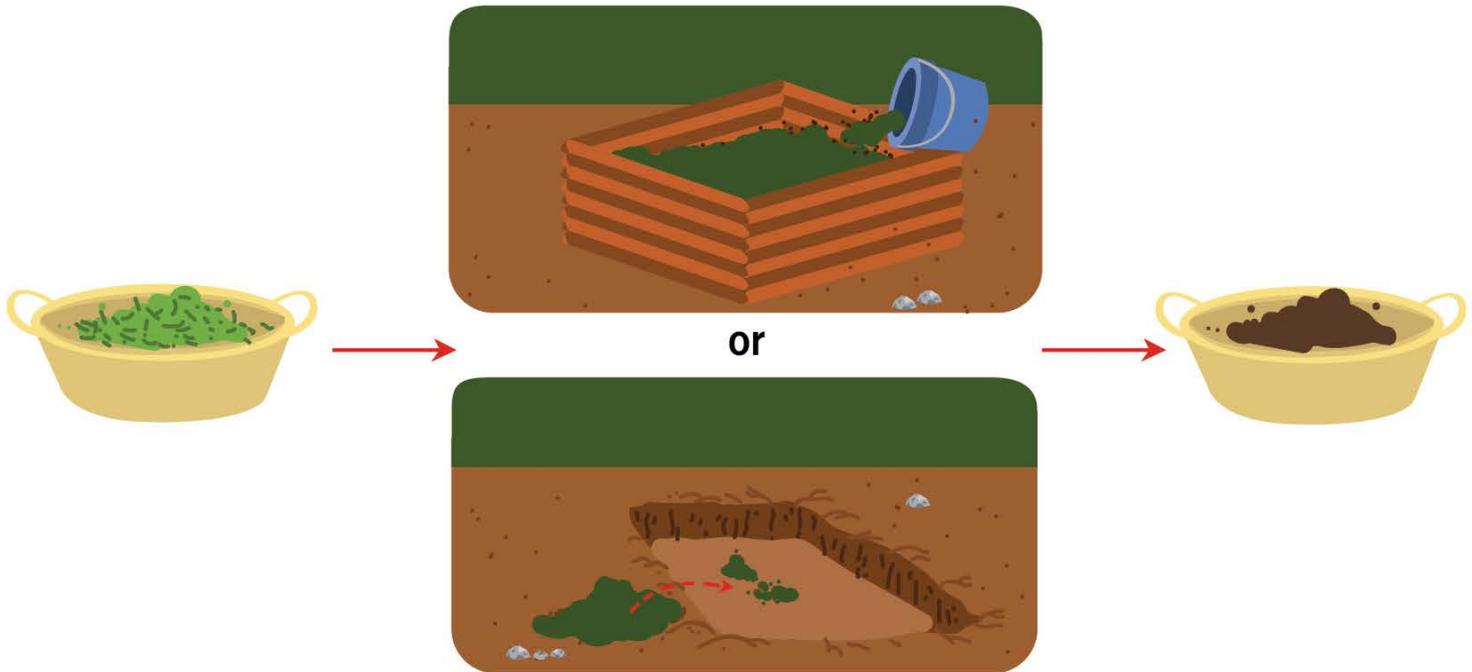
1. Clear the weeds



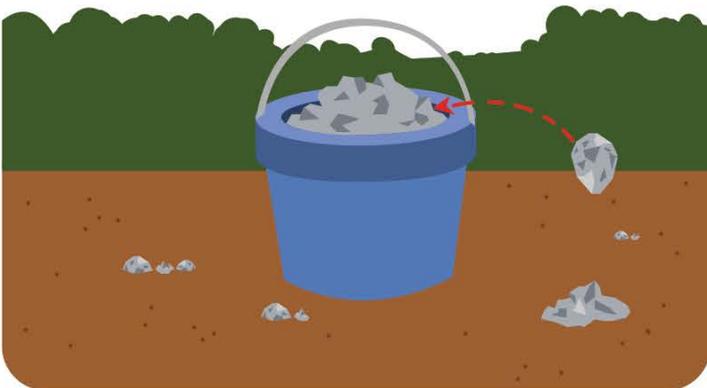
2. Remove the crop debris



3. Make compost (in boxes or pits) with weeds and crop debris, except infected or infested plants.



4. Remove the stones and rocks



Best Tip:

» Clear the weeds before they start flowering / producing seeds.

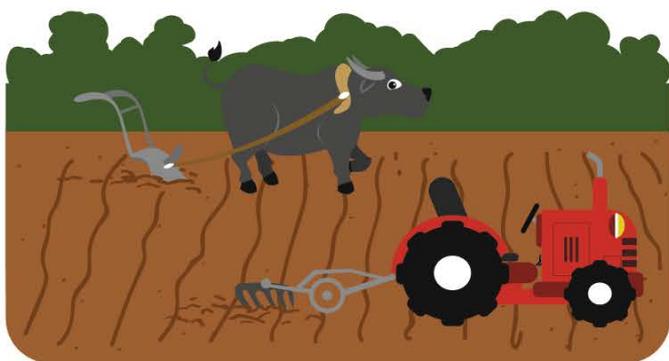
• Preparing the soil

Benefits:

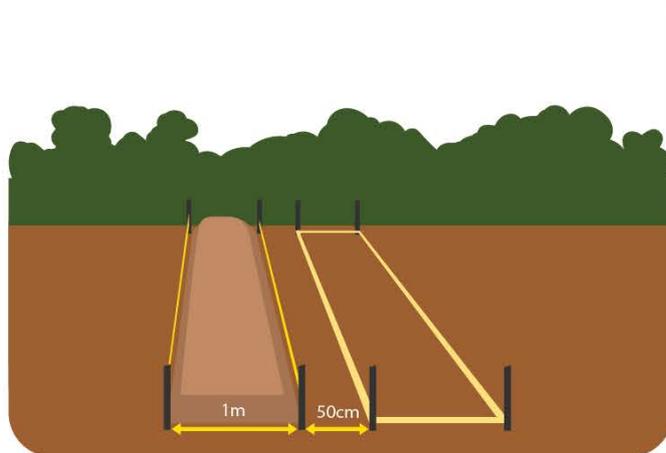
- » Break up blocky structure of the soil
- » Disrupt weeds from growing
- » Control/destroy insects and their eggs, larvae and breeding places
- » Promote better aeration for good root growth and water holding capacity

Steps:

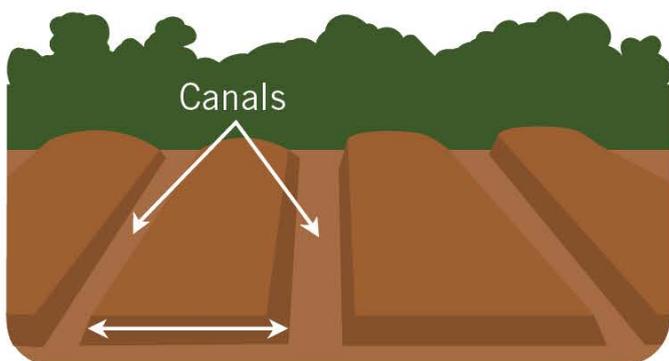
1. Plow and harrow (2-3 times) by animal-drawn equipment or mechanized



2. Lay-out the field using stakes, measuring tape and string



3. Prepare raised beds (one meter width), make canals for drainage



4. Level and form the beds



Best Tip:

- » Raise the bed depending on soil type and season (10-20 cm high in dry season and 30-50 cm high in rainy season)
- » Establish good canal system for irrigation and drainage
- » Finish land preparation 2 weeks before planting

• Field improvement



Do soil test for NPK and pH. If pH is below the recommended pH for specific vegetable (optimum pH 6.0 - 6.5), add lime. Consult local expert for the right application.



Add well-decomposed manure or any locally available organic fertilizers (3 kg per 2 m of bed)

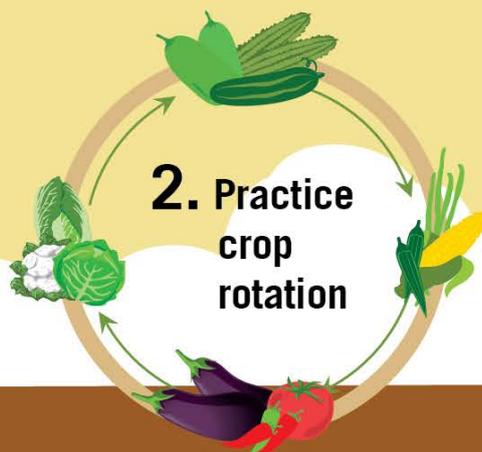
Best tips to improve soil health and production:

1. Practice green manuring:

- *Use leguminous crops
- *Incorporate into soil before flowering



2. Practice crop rotation



3. Install mulch and/or drip irrigation:

Advantages of drip irrigation:

- » Efficient use of water, labor and time
- » Reduces disease pressure
- » Reduces fertilizer leaching

Advantages of mulch:

- » Keeps soil moisture
- » Prevents fruits from touching directly the soil
- » Reduces soil compaction and erosion
- » Minimizes weed growth