



School : SKH Tang Shiu Kin Sec Sch  
Teacher In-charge : Miss Chau Yuk Lin

Project	Organic farming in an Urban Oasis
Issue	Organic farming: is it a sustainable practice?
Target Participants	All students
Project Period	July 2008 – mid-Jan 2009
Subjects	Geography
Collaborators	Internal collaborators: Environmental Education Team, Geography Club and Gardening Club  External collaborators: Methodist Fitness & Health Centre for the Seniors Wan Chai District Council
Goals and Objectives	Background: The external collaborators organized the community organic farming programme (「綠綠無窮展活力-康頤園藝坊社區綠化」計劃) in the Wan Chai Park during this period. The elderly and students from a kindergarten, a primary school and our school were invited to carry out organic farming in the farm free of charge under the guidance from the old experienced farmers. The ultimate goals of this programme were to develop a mutual help network, promote environmental protection and social cohesion for a green and harmonious sustainable community.  Objectives: After the programme, students were able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- know the operation of an organic farm</li> <li>- understand the advantages and limitations of organic farming</li> <li>- master the farming skills in a sustainable way</li> <li>- be aware of the need to develop a more environmentally friendly farming practice</li> </ul>

Activities (Schedule / Implementation)		Activities
	5 Jul 2008	Kick off Few students attended the opening ceremony, selected the plot and ploughed the soil.
	Sept 2008	Recruit the School Environmental Protection Ambassadors (SEPA)s and members of Gardening Club
	8 Sept 2008 – mid-Jan 2009 (except Dec)	SEPA)s and members of Gardening Club learnt some organic farming skills and practised these skills with the elderly in the farm on Mondays from 3:50 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.
	31 Oct - Nov 2008	Form 2 students visited the organic farm.
	5 Nov 2008	SEPA)s introduced the operation of the farm and shared their difficulties in the experience-sharing session in the Wan Chai Park.
	Jan 2008	Form 4 and 6 students visited the organic farm.
	17 Jan 2008	Closing Ceremony in the community centre
Curriculum Structure		Geography Curriculum
	Form 2	Farming the wrong way
	Form 4	Impact of agricultural technology
	Form 6	Agriculture as an agroecosystem and economic system
Teaching Plan	Farm visit	
	Level	Form 2
	Learning objectives	After the activity, students are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- know the operation of organic farming</li> <li>- know how to minimize the negative impacts of scientific farming methods</li> <li>- understand the limitations of organic farming</li> <li>- master the enquiry skills</li> <li>- recognize the importance of sustainable development</li> </ul>
	Students' prior knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- know the farming system</li> <li>- know the advantages and disadvantages of scientific farming methods</li> </ul>
	Duration	Briefing: one lesson Visit: 1 hour in the farm De-briefing: half of the lesson
	Supplementary resource	Worksheet with guiding questions

	What to bring	Thermo-hygrometer, camera, measuring tapes, clip board, pencil, microphone
	Learning activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students work in group to collect information from observation, measurement and interview with the elderly assigned in advance.</li> <li>- Complete the worksheet according to the instructions.</li> </ul>
	Assessment methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Each group has to write up a report on the farm visit.</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- human resources: Teaching assistants were arranged to cope with the teacher-student ratio stipulated in the official document.</li> <li>- lesson arrangement: Teachers had to arrange the last period for the visits, so they had to change lessons with other teachers.</li> <li>- extreme weather conditions, such as typhoon caused crop failure.</li> <li>- short period of land tenancy</li> </ul>	
Achievements	<p>試總結該計劃/課程成功之處及可改善的地方</p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students were perseverant to practise organic farming despite the harsh and tedious work, and enjoyed the programme very much.</li> <li>- Students were able to produce the crops under the guidance from the experienced farmers.</li> <li>- SEPAs could improve their presentation skills because they had to share their experience with government officials and the citizens.</li> </ul>	

## Reference



