

# Cikananga's Sustainability Farming Program (PPBC)

Promoting animal welfare and aiding farmers transition from synthetics at our demonstration regenerative farm.



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## News from the farm

By Scott Hartle

Despite weather challenges, Farm Three's construction persists. Block B's completion, now targeted for early May, signals progress toward our development goals.

This month, Indonesian volunteers lent crucial support in crop seeding and transplantation, exemplifying the strength of local collaboration.

This month we welcome two PPBC interns, Oleg and Immy from the Netherlands. Both will be conducting research for their academic studies whilst supporting the team with daily farm tasks.

Their involvement energizes the team as we support their learning and gain insights from their research.



## The importance of farm drainage.

### Productive cover cropping.

Incorporating squash into our cover crop mix at Farm One has yielded dual benefits. Not only are we able to provide nutritious food for the animals of PPSC, but we're also enhancing the soil during its fallow period.

Squash serves as a natural weed suppressor, covering the ground effectively and reducing soil erosion and moisture loss. As it decomposes, it enriches the soil with organic matter, improving soil fertility for future use.

Additionally, squash attracts pollinators, contributing to biodiversity and ecosystem health. By integrating squash into our cover cropping strategy, we're not only supporting animal nutrition but also nurturing the soil, embodying our commitment to sustainable and regenerative agriculture at PPBC.

Cover cropping and fallow periods benefit tropical soils by enhancing nutrient cycling, improving soil structure and erosion control, suppressing weeds, retaining moisture, and promoting beneficial microbial activity. These practices enhance overall soil health and resilience in tropical agricultural systems.



In the realm of tropical agriculture, the interaction between the dry and wet seasons presents formidable challenges, necessitating adaptive strategies to safeguard agricultural productivity are a necessity.

Recognizing the impact of a shifting climate, the PPBC program has undertaken a significant initiative in on-farm drainage. Through the completion of a trench extending between Farm Three and the Javan Warty Pig enclosure, we address the intensified rainfall and ensuing runoff.

In the tropical agricultural context, where water is both a precious resource and a potential hazard, the diversion of runoff away from vulnerable production beds towards Block E's fruiting trees is vital. This deliberate intervention not only shields crops from damage but also optimizes water utilization in response to climatic uncertainties.

Through initiatives such as on-farm drainage, we fortify our resilience and contribute to the long-term viability of tropical agricultural systems amidst the evolving challenges posed by the climate emergency.