

# 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

On Tuesday 20/08 we welcomed our first group of students from the local Pondok Penghafal Qur'an school. They will attend PPBC every second week until 21 January 2025. After which, the program will be repeated at least three times to accommodate all the school's students.

In addition to normal PPBC operations, the team have been preparing all three farms for the arrival of Chester Zoo, who will be sending a team to support Cikananga projects, including the PPBC program.

At Farm Three, block C has been planted out with sawi (mustard greens), Pak coy, and selada (lettuce). Block B has been cleared, dug over and had manure applied ready for planting kacang panjang (long bean). Our timun (cucumber) area has also been cleared and planted with buncis (beans).

Progress is being made, and we are excited to soon reap the rewards of our efforts.



## Berry Planting.

### Farm Two Prep.

At Farm Two, significant progress has been made in preparation for the Chester Zoo expedition to Cikananga. The area has been cleared, and access has been improved, laying the groundwork for future activities. The team is currently assessing water options, with a 3-meter-tall tower support already constructed to house a 1,000-liter water tank. This tank will be essential in providing Farm Two with the water needed to maintain the newly planted fruit trees.

As part of the expedition, water rose apple, guava, papaya, and persimmon will be planted, with all the fruit grown to support the animals at Cikananga. Once the fruiting trees have established themselves, Farm Two will evolve into a model of small-scale agroforestry. The landscape will then be further diversified with the addition of perennial crops, showcasing a sustainable approach to farming that benefits both the environment and the wildlife at Cikananga.



As part of Chester Zoo's upcoming expedition to the Cikananga Wildlife Centre, exciting preparations are underway at Farm Three for the September planting of raspberries, mulberries, blueberries, blackberries, and strawberries. In anticipation of this, the soil is being carefully prepared to ensure optimal conditions for these berries.

Current activities focus on loosening the soil to enhance aeration and drainage, which is particularly crucial given the heavy clay soils at Farm Three. For blueberries, the team is adjusting the soil to a more acidic pH (4.5-5.5) using Pine needles, which would gradually acidify the soil. Meanwhile, for raspberries, mulberries, blackberries, and strawberries, the soil is being balanced to a slightly acidic to neutral pH (5.5-7.0) with the addition of lime where necessary.

Looking ahead, organic matter such as compost and well-rotted manure will be incorporated to boost soil fertility and structure. This thorough soil preparation will set the stage for successful berry growth, contributing to the long-term sustainability goals of the Cikananga Wildlife Centre.