

# Cikananga's Sustainability Farming Program (PPBC)

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



## IN THIS ISSUE

### News from the farm

Local educational program in sight.

### Soil Amendments.

The benefits of Azomite and Kelp.

### Drip Irrigation

Successes, challenges, and perseverance.



## News from the farm

By Scott Hartle

Recently, the PPBC team has been discussing the development of a three-month educational program for students from the local Pondok Penghafal Qur'an school. With the help of Fifit, Cikananga's Education Officer a curriculum has been developed and delivered to the school. The program is expected to begin mid-August.

At farm three, blocks B and C have been cleared and are being prepared for planting. Currently, we are waiting on manure and compost, which will be added to the beds prior to planting sawi hijau (mustard greens) and kacang Panjang (long bean).

Farm One continues to be developed, with one paddy remaining to be cleared. Currently, we have planted kangkung (water spinach) and selada (lettuce). Later, we are considering planting terung (eggplant) and timun (cucumber).



## Drip Irrigation.

## Soil Amendments.

Soil amendments are crucial in organic agriculture to enhance soil fertility and plant health. Azomite, a natural mineral product, and kelp, a type of seaweed, are two powerful amendments. Azomite contains over 70 trace minerals, including calcium, magnesium, and potassium, which are essential for plant growth. These minerals improve soil structure, increase nutrient availability, and enhance microbial activity, leading to stronger root systems and more robust plants.

Kelp, rich in micronutrients, vitamins, and hormones, offers numerous benefits. Its high iodine content helps in disease resistance, while natural growth hormones like cytokinins and auxins promote cell division and elongation, resulting in improved plant vigor. Kelp also enhances soil's water retention capacity, reducing drought stress. Together, Azomite and kelp provide a comprehensive nutrient profile, fostering healthier, more resilient plants and contributing to sustainable organic farming practices by improving overall soil health and fertility.



At Farm Three, the installation of a drip irrigation system for irrigating our bush beans marks a significant step towards efficient water management within the PPBC program. Drip irrigation provides precise water delivery directly to the plant roots, minimizing water waste and promoting optimal growth conditions. However, the implementation has faced several obstacles. Inadequate water pressure has been a primary challenge, often resulting in uneven water distribution across the fields.

Additionally, the poor quality of materials used to build the drip irrigation system has led to frequent leaks and breakdowns, significantly reducing the system's efficiency. Pests have also posed a problem, damaging the irrigation infrastructure and compromising its functionality. Despite these challenges, plans are in place to extend drip irrigation to all four blocks of Farm Three. This expansion aims to ensure consistent and efficient irrigation, enhancing crop yields and supporting the PPBC's commitment to sustainable agriculture.