

# Cikananga's Sustainable Farming Program (PPBC)

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



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Developing Farm Two's Fruit Sector with Papaya, Guava, and Pineapple.



Photo Credit: Billy Offland

## News from the farm

By Scott Hartle

As we near the completion of our permanent raised beds, with only Block A remaining, the benefits clearly justify the effort and time invested.

Despite the labor-intensive process, we've expanded our production by adding two more beds, bringing the total to 97. We've started transplanting Solanaceae family members, including terong (eggplants) and tomat (tomatoes), and will soon add kol bunga (cauliflower), Brokoli (broccoli), and kubis (cabbage) as more beds are finalized.

Given their longer growth period of typically 100 days or more, we're implementing insect netting to protect these crops from pests, effectively creating a barrier to ensure their healthy growth. This strategic approach enhances our crop management and ensures sustained productivity.



## Agroforestry: What and how we use it.

### Advantages of Indoor Farming

Indoor growing spaces, notably greenhouses and polytunnels, offer substantial benefits for fruit production, particularly melons and watermelons, in tropical climates.

These controlled environments significantly reduce pest infiltration, decreasing the reliance on chemical pesticides and enhancing fruit quality and yield. By creating a barrier against pests and regulating climatic conditions, these structures mitigate issues like insect larvae damaging the fruit. Moreover, they enable year-round production by protecting crops from extreme weather, ensuring consistent supply and profitability.

Given these advantages, there's a keen interest in constructing a polytunnel/hoop house at PPBC Farm Three. This future endeavor aims to leverage these benefits, ensuring sustainable farming practices while improving yield and fruit quality in a tropical setting, thus addressing past struggles with pest problems effectively.



Agroforestry, a sustainable land use system that integrates trees with crops, plays a crucial role at PPBC Farm Two, showcasing an innovative approach to fruit production. By integrating papaya, guava, and pineapple into the farm's agroforestry area, we leverage the synergistic relationships between these species and the surrounding environment.

This method enhances biodiversity, improves soil health, and maximizes space utilization, leading to increased crop yield and diversity. The development of Farm Two's agroforestry area also serves as a model for sustainable agriculture in tropical climates, ensuring the preservation of natural resources while optimizing fruit production.

Future expansion of Farm Two's agroforestry crops includes citrus fruits with understory vegetables, like tomatoes and leafy greens, which can boost ecosystem resilience and productivity. These additions optimize land use, improve soil health, and offer varied produce for the animals of Cikananga.