**CROP PROJECT**

**COST ANALYSIS**

**Name of project**  Cultivation of lettuce

**Location**: Sophia Practical Instruction Centre

**Duration**: 22nd November, 2012

**Description of activities:**

* Land clearing
* Primary tillage
* Secondary tillage
* Drain formation
* Incorporating manure
* Preparation of beds
* Transplanting
* Shading
* Irrigation
* Weed control
* Pest control
* Harvesting

**Materials and equipment**

Wheel barrow, cutlass, fork, shovel, pitch fork, water can, bucket, spade, pen manure, lettuce seedlings

**Schedule of operation**

**Activity Observation**

* Week 1 land clearing and primary tillage
* Week 2 secondary and drain formation
* Week 3 incorporating manure
* Week 4 transplanting
* Week 5 irrigation

**Complete budget**  
**Projected income**

Number of plants 300

Price for one 100

Total income $30,000

**Projected expenditure**

1 pack lettuce seed $300

15bg pen manure $3000

½ lb seven powder $750

Urea (fertilizer) $0

**Labour cost**

Land clearing $400

Primary tillage $500

Secondary tillage $500

Drain formation $400

Cultural practices $300

150 bags @ $5 $750

Miscellaneous $2000

Total projected $8900

**Projected surplus**

Projected income $30000

Projected expenditure $8900

Total surplus $21000

**Actual income**

Number of plants 300

Price for one $60

Total actual income $18000

**Actual expenditure**

300 seedlings @ $10 $3000

Pen manure $0

250g sevin powder $450

Urea (no urea used) $0

**Labour cost**

Land clearing $0

Primary tillage $0

Secondary tillage $0

Drain formation $0

Cultural practices $0

150 plastic bags @ $5 $750

Transportation $3000

Total actual expenditure $7200

**Actual surplus**

Actual income

Actual expenditure $7200

Total

**Analysis**

**Comparison of projected income and actual income**

The projected income was higher than the actual income by $12000 (40%). This was so because the projected price was almost twice the actual price. We projected that the price for one lettuce is $100 and the actual price is $60. Where there is an extra.

**Comparison of expenditure and surplus**

The projected expenditure is higher than the actual expenditure .this was so because we projected for manure, urea and labour cost and didn’t spend any money on these. Manure and urea was provided on the farm and the labour cost is provided by the students. The projected surplus was higher than the actual surplus by $10300(49%), because the projected income and actual expenditure.

**General comments**

Lettuce is a green leafy vegetable. There are a varieties of lettuce (Lactuca sativa) – minetto, mignonette bronze, big boston iceberg. Lettuce has a high content of calcium and vitamin A and C. It is eaten uncooked and used chiefly in salads. Production is all year round. It belongs to the family compositae. Lettuce, being a leafy crop has a heavy demand on nitrogen, one week after planting, 14g of sulphate of ammonia should be applied to each plant: Further application should be made every 14 days. The chief pest that affect lettuce are aphids and caterpillars of moths and butterflies. These are readily controlled by an insecticide, Malathion. The root knot nematode attacks the root system. To prevent this, treat the soil with a nematode,e.g. Nemagon, prior to planting. Mosaic virus is sometimes observed on the lettuce which has been attacked by aphids. Leaf spot is caused by a fungus. Control using a fungicide. Soft rot is brought about by bacteria. The heads decay in the field or in storage. There is no cure.

Conclusion

It be concluded that the project was successful because they were no shortfall or loss and our profit was realized.

It can also be concluded that lettuce is a perishable crop and in order to produce good quality, this crop should be daily irrigated, pest and weeds should be controlled also daily and the right proportion of nutrients should be given.

Recommendation

* The project may have been improved if the drains were not dug too deep, so as to allow the water to run quickly.
* It could have also been improved if they were more pen manure added to the beds of lettuce.
* The crops were exposed to too much sunlight and there should be a promotion of proper shading.
* There should be adequate and sharp tools e.g. cutlass and fork for proper work
* There should have been more lettuce transplanting, so as to make full use of all the beds and thus obtain a higher profit.