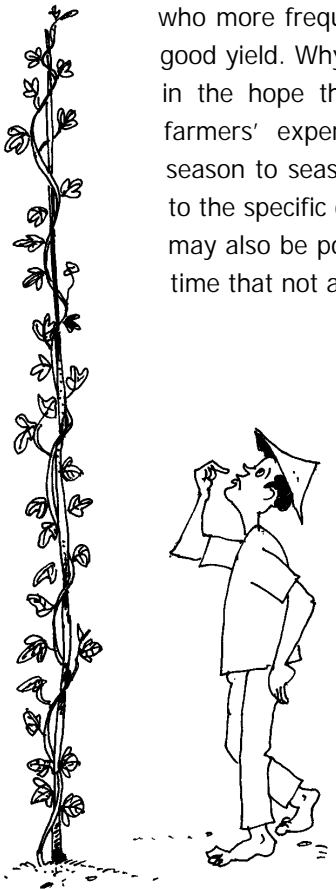


16 Vine lifting

Background

Some farmers have experienced that the practice of vine lifting positively influences the growth of the sweetpotato crop, storage root formation, and, hence, the yield. It is also often heard that diligent farmers who more frequently lift the sweetpotato vines get a relatively good yield. Why do not all farmers practice this method then, in the hope that they will get a better yield? Apparently, farmers' experiences vary from area to area and from season to season, and the result of a practice seems related to the specific condition in a certain place at a certain time. It may also be possible that certain practices require additional time that not all farmers have to spend.



In this activity we will analyze how vine lifting influences sweetpotato production, and what is the most practical and efficient method for farmers to practice vine lifting.

Objectives

This activity aims at building understanding together about the effects of vine lifting on sweetpotato development.

Materials

- Newsprint paper.
- Felt-tip markers.

Activity steps

A The practice of vine lifting

- A.1 Ask the participants, whether and how they usually practice vine lifting of their sweetpotato crop. Lead a discussion on these practices using the following questions:
- Why should we practice vine lifting, what is the advantage?
 - Why should we not practice vine lifting, what is the disadvantage?
 - What is the appropriate moment or season to lift the vines, and how do we determine whether or not and when we should do it?
 - How many times during a season should we lift the vines?
 - At what growth development stage of the crop should we best lift the vines?
- A.2 Ask one of the participants to draw a sweetpotato plant of 3 months of age, including foliage and root system. Particularly the shape of different kinds of roots should be given attention by distinguishing between storage roots growing from the main stem and adventitious roots growing from the vines. Use this picture as an input for discussion:
- What is the function of vine lifting?
 - What is the most appropriate method to practice vine lifting?
- A.3 Invite the participants to the field to observe whether the crop in the FFS plot needs vine lifting. If the group decides that it is time to do so, practice vine lifting using the methods that were determined most appropriate by the group.

For more information see:

- Vine lifting (Part III, Section 2.7).