AGRICULTURE PROJECT REPORT GUIDELINE 2019

N/B; The guideline is to be used hand in hand with the KNEC stipulated marking scheme for 443/3 2019 so as to get a clear follow up of steps.

PRODUCTION OF FINGER MILLET

(Eleusine coracana)

Variety: .....

(That's how the title should be written, clearly and appropriately).

INTRODUCTION

Finger Millet is an annual , short day crop that grows in various ecological conditions including soils that range from moderate acidic to moderate basic. The crop is mainly grown and processed before consumption. In Kenya , it is mostly grown for subsistence consumption for porridge and ugali, especially to embrace traditions.

The reasons for carrying out this project were;

- To fulfill the KNEC agriculture 443/3 2019 requirements
- To test the suitability of the soil around the school for production of finger millet.
- To identify the various weeds that are associated with finger millet on the farm
- To identify the pests and diseases that attack finger millet on the field.

(This is how introduction should be, i.e give a brief information about the crop in terms of ecological requirements, nutrients that the crop supplies etc, the give the AIMS of the project as stated above, in hypotheses form, remember it's like a research and is therefore intended to give out findings at the end) give atleast 7 aims and objectives.

LAND PREPARATION

The teacher introduced all the project items and as a school wesettled on production of finger millet. Plot allocation was done on..... and I was allocated a plot measuring 4m by 3m.

a. Land Clearing

I carried out land clearing on ..... using a panga by cutting the

clintonlikami@gmail.com/254740435299

vegetative cover from my plot. It was important for me to clear the land so as to;

- Remove the maize stalks of the previous cropping
- Hasten subsequent operatons such as primary cultivation

(state date, tool, method used and lastly give reasons).

b. Primary Cultivation

I carried out primary tillage on.....after clearing the land. I used a Jembe to achieve this purpose by hand digging.
Primary tillage was necessary so as to;

- Remove weeds
- Incorporate soil with organic matter
- Aerate the soil
- Improve water infiltration
- Destroy pest stages by exposing them to the sun

(state date, tool, method used and lastly give reasons).

c. Secondary Cultivation

I carried out the first secondary tillage on.....after the primary tillage. I used a Jembe to achieve this purpose by hand digging.
I repeated secondary cultivation on .....using a jembe.
The reasons why I carried out secondary cultivation were;

- Remove weeds that had emerged after the primary tillage
- To aerate the soil
- To break further the soil clods into smaller pieces

After the second harrowing I achieved a fine tilth which was suitable for sowing of finger millet seeds.

PLANTING

After the adequate preparation of the land, I planted my plot on.....There were slight showers of rains that made the soil moist enough for germination of the seeds. I planted.....variety

I made planting furrows 30cm between the lines. DAP fertilizer applied covered with a slight layer of soil then seeds scattered in the furrows, a slight layer of soil applied to cover the seeds.

(fertilizer rate, spacing, date of planting, the variety planted, procedure followed in planting)

clintonlikami@gmail.com/254740435299

WEED CONTROL

On..... I visited my farm and found couch grass. The weed was competing with the crops for space, nutrients and sunlight. I uprooted and discarded the weeds away from the plot.

I also uprooted weeds on.....

(atleast weed control to be done thrice)

PEST CONTROL

On..... I visited my farm and noticed a cluster of ants, they were feeding on the leaves by cutting and sucking sap. This was making the plants to dry and wilt. I decided to apply Diazinon to control their damaging effects.

Birds were also a major pest, they were invading the plot and picking on the millet grains reducing the yields. I decided to make a scarecrow on .....and placed it at the middle of the plot to scare the birds away. This worked out perfectly

DISEASE CONTROL

I noticed that the leaves of a few crops had started turning yellow, with brown strips. Upon investigation I found out that the crops had ..... disease

(this is just an illustration, to show that the identity of the disease should not come first, instead, give symptoms the name the disease based on the symptoms)

FIELD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Soil and Water Management

I applied mulches on the surface of the plot after planting, so as to conserve the soil moisture since there was inadequate rainfall. The mulches were dry grass, ...

I placed bricks at the edges of the plot to hold the soil on the plot to avoid lose of soil.

Thinning.

This was done on....., two weeks after emergence of the germinated seeds. I thinned the overcrowded crops leaving an intra-space of 5cm. This was to ensure, maximum utilization of nutrients on the farm and reduce the competition among the crops.

clintonlikami@gmail.com/254740435299

Watering

(say something, give dates, reasons)

Topdressing

(*give date, fertilizer, fertilizer rate, method used)*

OBSERVATIONS

Achievements

- After spraying Diazinon I did not experience pest attack on my plot through the entire period of growth.
- All the seeds germinated and I was not supposed to gap.
- There were no theft incidences throughout the growing period.
- .
- .
  (give more points) achievements should outweigh problems experienced

Problems faced

- Unreliable rainfall in the initial growth stages and this called for manual watering which was time wasting
- Balancing school routine with project work was hard however I managed by visiting the plot during school breaks on the timetable.
- .
- .
  (*give more problems and be sure to give a corrective measure after each, don't leave it hanging.)*

HARVESTING

I harvested my yields on..... after the heads had turned brown, after attaining a maturity age of..... I harvested by cutting the heads with a sharp knife and kept them in .....

(give extra details on harvesting)

clintonlikami@gmail.com/254740435299

RESULTS/YIELDS

After the post harvest practices I weighed my yields and I had harvested.....kg of finger millet. The millet grains were of recommendable size and the colour was brown as expected due to the variety planted. The quantity was higher as compared to what other students had obtained.

CONCLUSION

At the end of the project,

- I had successfully fulfilled the KNEC 2019 agriculture 443/3 requirements
- I found out that the soils around the school were fertile and suitable for finger millet production
- I found out that the weeds that are associated with finger millet on field are couch grass and black jack
- I got to know that ants and birds are the pests that attack finger millet while on the field.
  (*you should have realized that am answering the hypotheses/aims stated in the introduction part, ama?)*

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