INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF MULCHING ON SOILS

CASE STUDY ON KALES IN THE SCHOOL FARM

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THE GLOBE PROGRAM

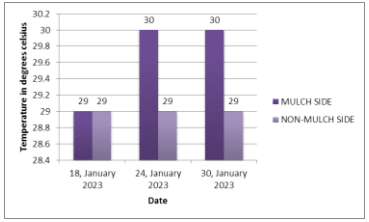
INTRODUCTION

Today's improper use of agricultural land and the increase in chemical-based fertilisers have reduced soil quality to a high amount.Many traditional methods are pure and quite effective, some of which are still being used today and may be known as 'organic' farming.We are using a method called mulching. This is a method of weed management that consists of the use of plant-based materials, which in some cases may also be known as organic mulch. We are looking at how mulching affects the various plant components and their necessities and how mulching is a better agriculture practice than the other methods that include the use of chemical-based agricultural improvement methods.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

We began by taking measurements for three consecutive weeks, during 3 different times of the day; morning, afternoon and evening hours. We took our apparatus and measured both sides of the farm, one side with mulch and one side without, checking if mulch affects soil quality or not. Our team took samples of soil from both sides to get accurate values for pH because we reached a point where it did not change.

RESULTS



CONCLUSION

Fundamentally, mulching would be a good method for farmers because of its sustainable properties, which would be able to provide a plantation with a simple material (such as dry grass) that would be able to aid a farms soil to retain its moisture during dry seasons, regulate the soil temperature, and subdue weed growth.

We have concluded that mulching is an affordable, cheap, easily accessible, quite effective and wonderful method of agricultural farming for long-term periods. This is an advantage to very rural/rural areas or LICs that work in the primary sector, and have these as the only source of food/income. They are unable to afford chemical or processed fertilisers and pesticides, that are used in today's modern farming techniques. These farmers can use the wastes such as wood chips, dry grass, etc, that are available to them sustainably and cheaply to improve their agricultural farming.

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