

Knowing the Organic Farmer

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Problem Statement: What processes need to be taken in order to create a successful and productive organic farm?

Out of the many agriculturalists in South Florida, Laura Mani has constantly outshone the rest. Because of her crops being organically grown, her popularity between markets has increased. After a research-based visit to her estate, investigators were able to acquire a better understanding of the effect her farm has on the local markets and on the food consumed. With her guidance and instruction, the premises were carefully examined with a focus on the different techniques utilized to tend to her crops. In addition, a focus was also placed on the manner in which she was able to grow organic crops despite obstacles such as lack of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. When asked how she maintains her land, Ms. Mani responded by stating “everything I use for our crops are made by myself or by what is offered from my farm”. For instance, she explained that her organically made mulch, created by the processing of

Laura Mani has a variety of different fruits being cultivated at her farm. All produced with organic material, it has achieved valued results.



Legend for the Map Outline of Laura Mani's Farm

1. Green Beans-
Extensive Farming
(Neighboring Farm)



2. The Entrance to Laura Mani's Farm

3. Jade Vine



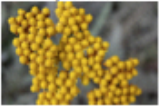
4. Dragon Fruits



5. Vanilla Bean Tree



6. Curry Plant



7. Turmeric



8. Orange Blossom



9. Jasmine



10. Key Lime



11. Purple Yam



12. White Yam



13. Yellow Yam



14. Red Bananas



15. Green Beans



16. Coconuts



17. Mulberry



Out of all her many delicious fruits, bananas are her most sold crop. The banana is not only used for eating though, the banana peels also work as a form of fertilizer.

dead branches and other vegetation, had to ability to provide other crops with vital nutrients.

Laura Mani owns one of the rarer farms in South Florida where everything grown does not have the touch of harmful chemicals. This has proven to give a healthier and richer taste to the crops; a process which has made her specific crops local favorites. Not only are the crops provided with better care due to these organic materials, but the land itself is being sustained for years to come.

The research continued as the team traveled throughout the farm, noting and capturing images of the various crops and farming methods. The visual representation which follows demonstrates the wide array of organic plants grown onsite.



Conclusion

Laura Mani's farm ties into the food security of the Homestead, Miami region as a wide array of her crops feed several local families and supply multiple businesses in the area. In addition, due to the fact that her farm and others like it specialize in organic, high quality food, a specific niche is filled as consumers have another producer of these specifically desired products. This has become a successful business enterprise for Mani who supports herself and her family through her profits.

Resources

Mani, L. (2013, 02 13). Interview by K Carruitero. Knowing the organic farmer.

This map layer shows the average amount spent on fruit and vegetables per household in the U.S. in 2012. Darker colors indicate higher average amount spent and increases along with distance from sources in the southeast quadrant.

