the tree age, weather conditions and management. Under poor production practices yields can be as low as 2 tons per hectare, while in well managed fields can go up to 15 tones per hectare. Therefore it is important to have a well managed orchard of the seedlings.

The avocado tree should be spaced 30 X 30ft and holes dug at 2ft wide and 2ft deep. Weed management should be regularly done; one could intercrop with annual covercrops or spraying with herbicides.

Vegetables

There are several vegetables grown at Mukono ZARDI that include both exotic and indigenous. The indigenous vegetables include ddodo, bugga, Jobbyo, pumpkin, Nakati, Ntula(bitter berries) and onions while the exotic types include Green egg plant, Sukuma wiki, cabbage, carrots and onions. Vegetables are grown because they are highly nutritious to the human body by providing vital vitamins thus boosting immunity. Vegetables can also be grown by persons with small and big pieces of land. With good management practices (manuring, mulching, watering and weeding) spraying vegetables is highly discouraged.





The green eggplant and several local and exotic vegetables planted in a bag

The green eggplant and several local and exotic vegetables at the Institute

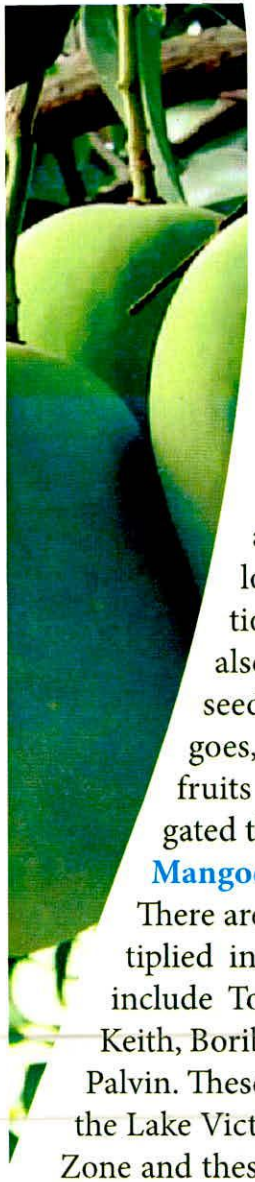
Vegetables are currently grown all year round at MUZARDI with the help of small irrigation technologies like sprinklers, drip and bottles. The section aims at demonstrating modern management practices and production of quality seedlings and seeds for stakeholders for increased incomes and food security. Seedlings of tomato, green egg plant, sukuma are raised in the nursery and readily available for sale.

For more information please contact:
Director Mukono ZARDI
P. O Box 164 Mukono Uganda
Phone: +256 -414- 290232.
E-mail: director@muzardi.go.ug.
Website: www.muzardi.go.ug

MUKONO ZONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

NARO



Introduction

The Horticulture department at Mukono ZARDI is composed of two units; the fruit and vegetables production. The fruit unit has the propagation house, three shed houses and orchards (mother gardens) for production and multiplication of improved fruit tree seedlings. The vegetable unit demonstrates the agronomic practices for both local exotic vegetable production. Trials/Experiments are also set. The most common fruit seedlings multiplied include mangoes, citrus, ovacado and passion fruits of different varieties propagated through grafting and budding

Mangoes

There are several mango varieties multiplied in the Institute orchard. These include Tommy Artikins, Zillate, Kent, Keith, Boribo, Ngowen, Apple mango and Palvin. These varieties are more adapted to the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone and these yield 300-500 fruits per tree per season. Others multiplied include Irwin, Alfunso, Edward and Pascaul.

There are also some few selected local varieties like Bire, Kate, Ssu and Sejembe which were evaluated and selected basing on the performance, taste and adoptability to the zone. Other than growing these varieties for fruit market production, some farmers have gone extra mile juice processing using varieties like Tommy Artikins.





The mango orchard and nursery units

Management

Mangoes in the shed houses are more prone to fungal a dwarf tree for easy management.

Oranges require well drained fertile sandy loam soils. Citrus is spaced at 20ft x 20 ft. holes dug 2ft wide and 2ft deep. A tin of manure per hole is also required per plant. Weeds should be done regularly to allow proper growth. Scab, brown spot and Die-back are among the common diseases that affect oranges. These can be sprayed using fungicides like Macozeb, Victory and Ridomil while the common pesticides are sprayed with Dimethoate, Dusbarn, Rocket. Before spraying properly read the Instructions

Citrus

The section multiplies sweet orange varieties (Washington navel, Hamlin and Valencia), Tangerines, Tangelo and Tahiiti lime. Each of these varieties yields on average 500 – 1000 oranges per tree per season.

Unlike mangoes, citrus is mostly propagated by budding method on either a land race rough lemon or trifoliate varieties. Trifoliate is good for those who want to grow citrus in the compound as ornamentals because it results in a dwarf tree for easy management.

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Avocado

The National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI) has released a number of avocado varieties that include Semil 33, Semil 43, Seminola Hass, Fuerte, Drsom 1, Drsom 2, Drsom 3, Drsom 4, Drsom 5, Semil and Shawil. Mukono ZARDI mainly multiplies Semil 33, Semil 43, greatly with