



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

AVOCADO



Introduction

Soil and water conservation aims to maintain or enhance the productive capacity of the land including soil, water and vegetation in areas prone to degradation through: 1) prevention or reduction of soil erosion, compaction and salinity, 2) conservation or drainage of water and 3) maintenance and improvement of soil fertility

Mulching

Mulching is a practice of applying a layer of organic material to the soil surface between rows of growing crops. Its main function is to conserve soil moisture by improving on soil holding capacity, improve soil fertility, suppress growth of weeds, prevent soil erosion from heavy rains and strong winds, and maintain an even soil temperature. Mulching is commonly used in avocado farming.



Mulching avocado crop

Furrow and Ridges

Furrow irrigation uses furrows between planted ridges. The soil is prepared into vertical channels (furrows) and planting mounds. Water moves into each furrow, running down the furrow's length and seeping into the soil at the root level.



Avocado crop grown using furrows and ridges

Counties using soil and water conservation practices

Makueni, Tana River, Baringo, Turkana, Machakos, Isiolo, Nyandarua, Marsabit, Taita Taveta, Kwale, Kilifi, Kisumu, Homabay, Kisii, Nyamira, Nyeri, Muranga, Kiambu

Mandate Centres for Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition:

KALRO-Kabete (Kenya Soil Survey)

Authors: Wandera F.M., Nyaga A.J.N. and Musila R.

Contact details: Kalro.kabete@kalro.org

Tel: KALRO CALL CENTRE: 0111010100/0800721741

Edited by: Editors: Nyabundi K.W., Maina F.W., Mukundi K.T., Maina P., Wanyama H.N., Mbugua D. and Ekadeli J.

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