Japan International Cooperation Agency

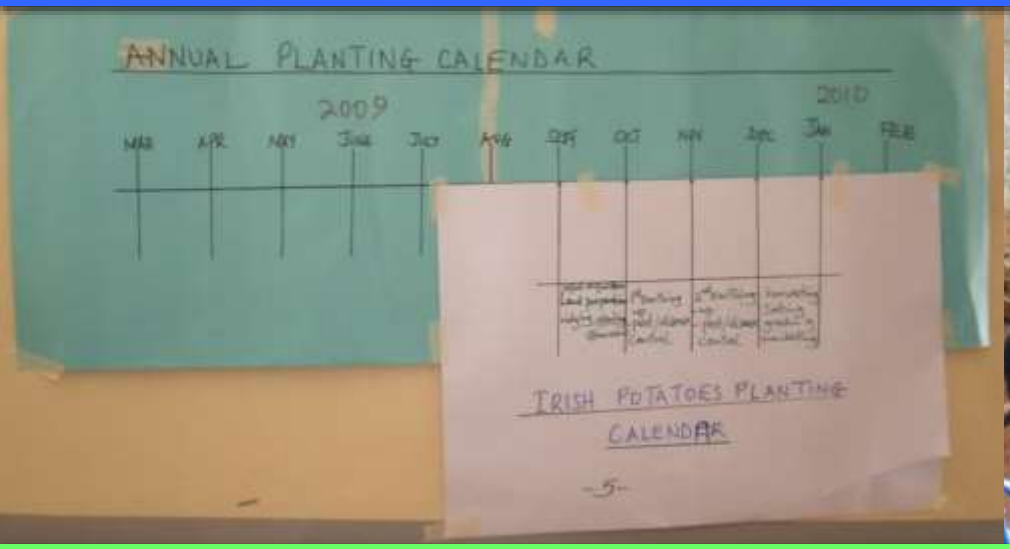
Agriculture and Food Authority
Horticultural Crops Directorate

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
State Department for Crop Development & Agricultural Research

Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion Project for Local and Up-Scaling (SHEP PLUS)

"Changing Farmers' Mindset from "Grow and Sell" to "Grow to Sell""

A CROP PLANTING CALENDAR



Prepared by SHEP PLUS

Photos: SHEP PLUS

Training Title: **A Crop Planting Calendar; a Planning tool towards successful marketing of horticultural produce**

Objective: **To assist smallholder farmers in planning their production to optimize their income**

Specific objectives:

- **Assist farmers in preparing and utilizing planting calendar**
- **Guide farmers in resource allocation**
- **Assist farmers in targeting peak market for a produce**

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A CROP PLANTING CALENDAR, First published by SHEP in 2009, revised by SHEP PLUS in 2019 (Ver.6)

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1. Introduction

A sample of a Bulb Onion Planting Calendar

1. Introduction

Photo: SHEP PLUS

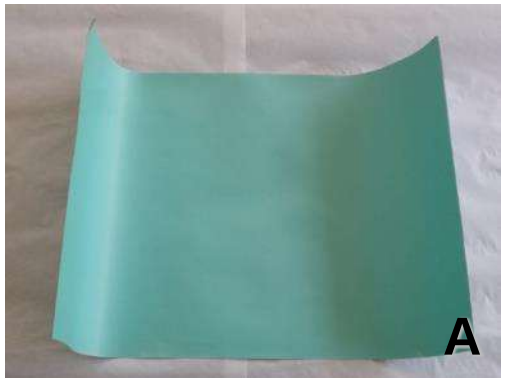
A Sample of a Cabbage Planting Calendar; with land preparation beginning in August and a peak market demand in December

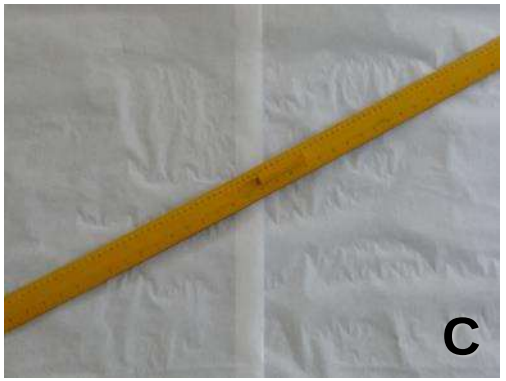
- A crop planting calendar guides farmers on when to plant/sow in order to capture the highest price in the market
- To decide when the planting/sowing should be done, farmers have to undertake a market survey to determine the month when there is peak demand before preparing a crop planting calendar
- In addition, a crop planting calendar is an important planning tool used by farmers to make decisions on when to carry out various farm activities to meet specific market demand
- It is useful for members of farmer groups in synchronizing their farm operations, thus exploiting the economies of scale when purchasing inputs, the bargaining power, and constant supply when marketing the produce

[Note]

- This is a sample calendar for a specific area for a specific crop

2. Materials for Preparing a Crop Planting Calendar





Or

Photos: SHEP PLUS

2. Materials for Preparing a Crop Planting Calendar

Colored Manila Papers (2 pieces): For preparing an annual calendar

White Manila Paper (1 piece): For preparing a monthly activities sheet

Ruler (1 m): For drawing straight lines

Markers: For labeling the annual calendar & the monthly activities sheet

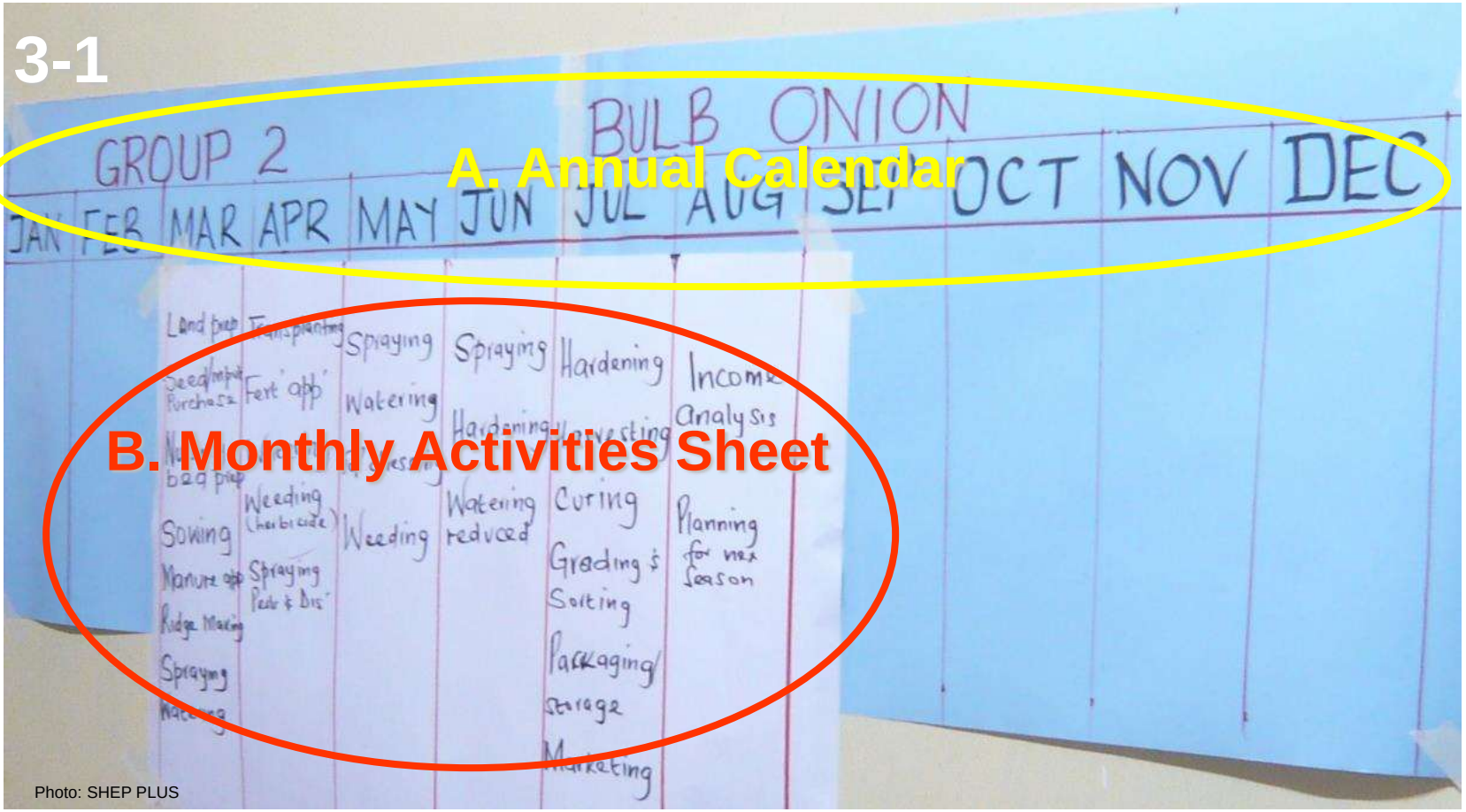
Masking Tape/Cello Tape: For joining the annual calendar & the monthly activities sheet

Or

Glue: For joining the annual calendar & the monthly activities sheet

Photos: SHEP PLUS

3. Parts of a Crop Planting Calendar



A sample of a Bulb Onion Planting Calendar

3. Parts of a Crop Planting Calendar

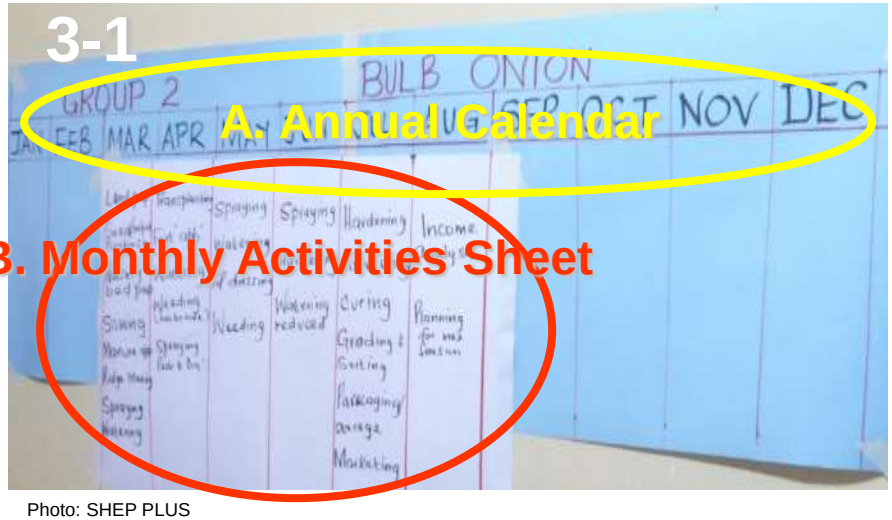


Photo: SHEP PLUS

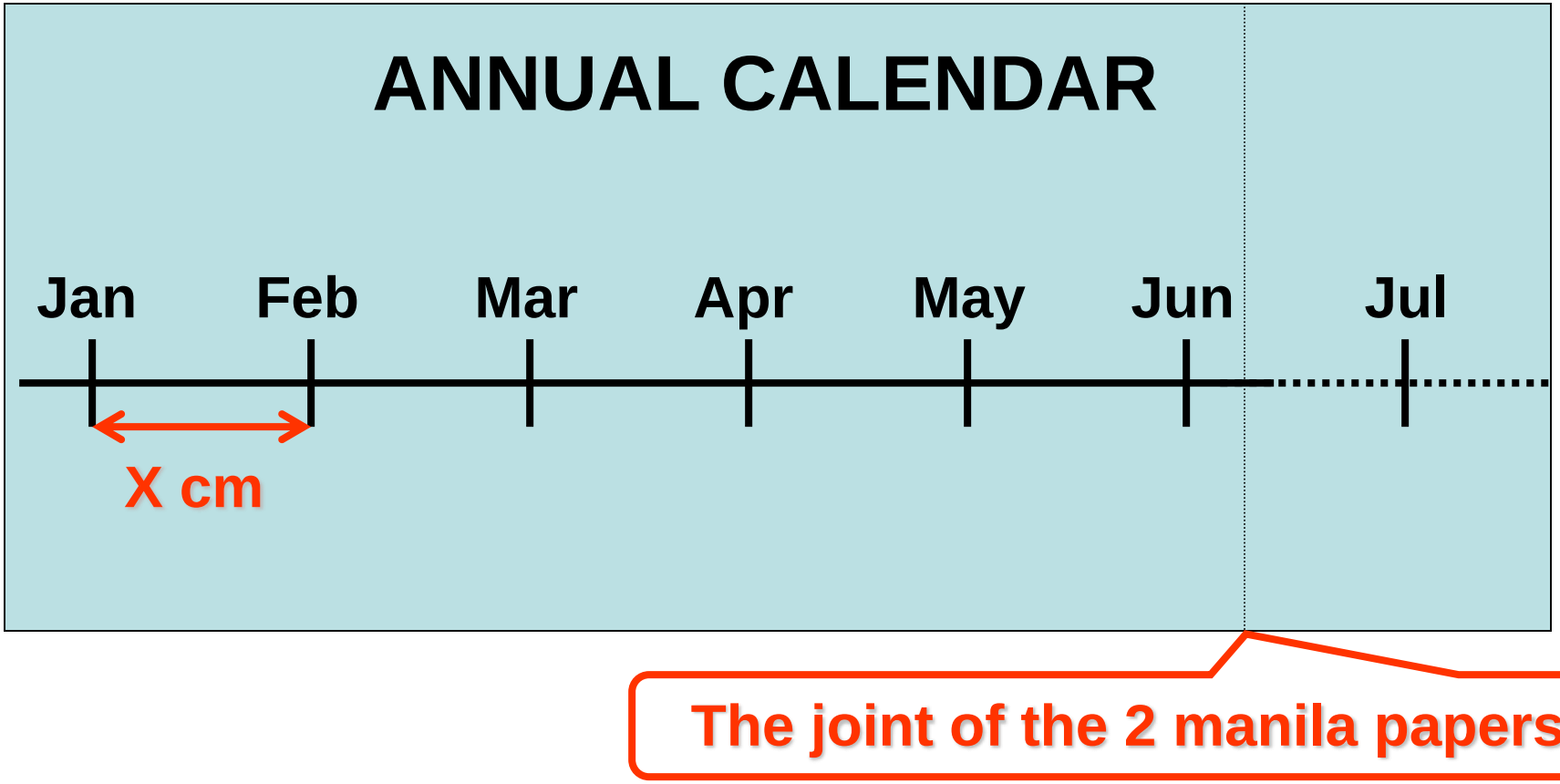
- A crop planting calendar has two (2) parts:

  A. The Annual Calendar (made by 2 blue manila papers in the photo) without days or dates – indicated by the yellow circle

  B. The Monthly Activities Sheet (made by white manila paper in the photo) indicate the activities for a crop from land preparation to harvesting – indicated by the red circle

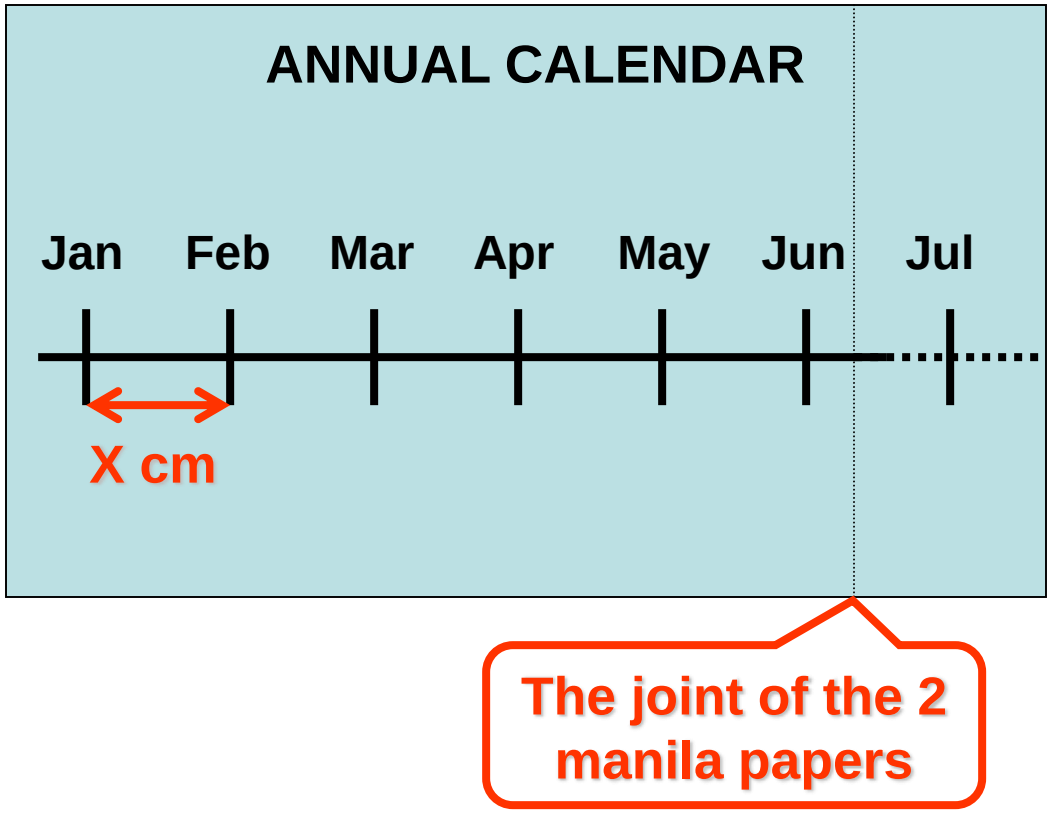
A Sample of a Bulb Onion Planting Calendar

4. Preparing an Annual Calendar



Joined manila papers with calibrated months

4. Preparing an Annual Calendar



A. The Annual Calendar

Procedure for preparing an annual calendar

1. Join two (2) colored manila papers from width to width using a masking tape/cello tape to make one long sheet

2. Using the 1 m ruler, draw a straight horizontal line on the joined manila papers at the centre

3. Subdivide the horizontal line into twelve (12) equal sections (X cm)

4. Label the sections starting from January to December without days or dates (It **DOES NOT** always have to start from January)

Joined manila papers with calibrated month

5.1 Preparing a Monthly Activities Sheet

Land Preparation Nursery Sowing 120 g of seed per acre Control of Damping off Diseases & Cutworms	Transplant 30 days after Seed Germination Spacing 60 x 60 cm^2 Fertilizer Application 10 g DAP per hole (2 bottle tops Per hole) Manure 4 – 8 ton/acre (2 – 3 handfuls)	Weed, Pest & Disease Control 1st Top Dressing 60 kg/acre (5 g/hole or 1 bottle top per hole)	2nd Top-dress 120 kg/acre (10 g/hole) Weed, Pest & Disease Control	Harvesting 75 – 120 days after Transplanting Sorting & Grading Small<1kg Medium 1 – 2 kg Large >3kg Yields 6,000 – 12,000kg per acre Marketing

X cm

A sample of a monthly activities sheet for Cabbage

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X cm

A sample of a monthly activities sheet for Cabbage (For a five (5) months maturity period)

B. The Monthly Activities Sheet

- The monthly activities sheet consists of columns
- Each column indicates the monthly activities (activity) to be undertaken and the inputs required

Procedure for preparing the monthly activities sheet

1. Prepare one (1) white manila paper
2. Consider the maturity period of the crop that you are preparing the planting calendar for
3. If the planting calendar is for a crop whose maturity period is five (5) months, draw five (5) columns on the manila paper
4. The width of each column must be equal to that of each section (**X cm**) of the annual calendar
5. Start considering monthly activities and input requirements of the crop
6. Indicate in the appropriate column of the monthly activities sheet the activities and inputs required up to marketing

5.2 Importance of a Monthly Activities Sheet

Indicates resources required towards all the planned activities in every month/ column

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A sample of a monthly Activity Sheet for Cabbage

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X cm

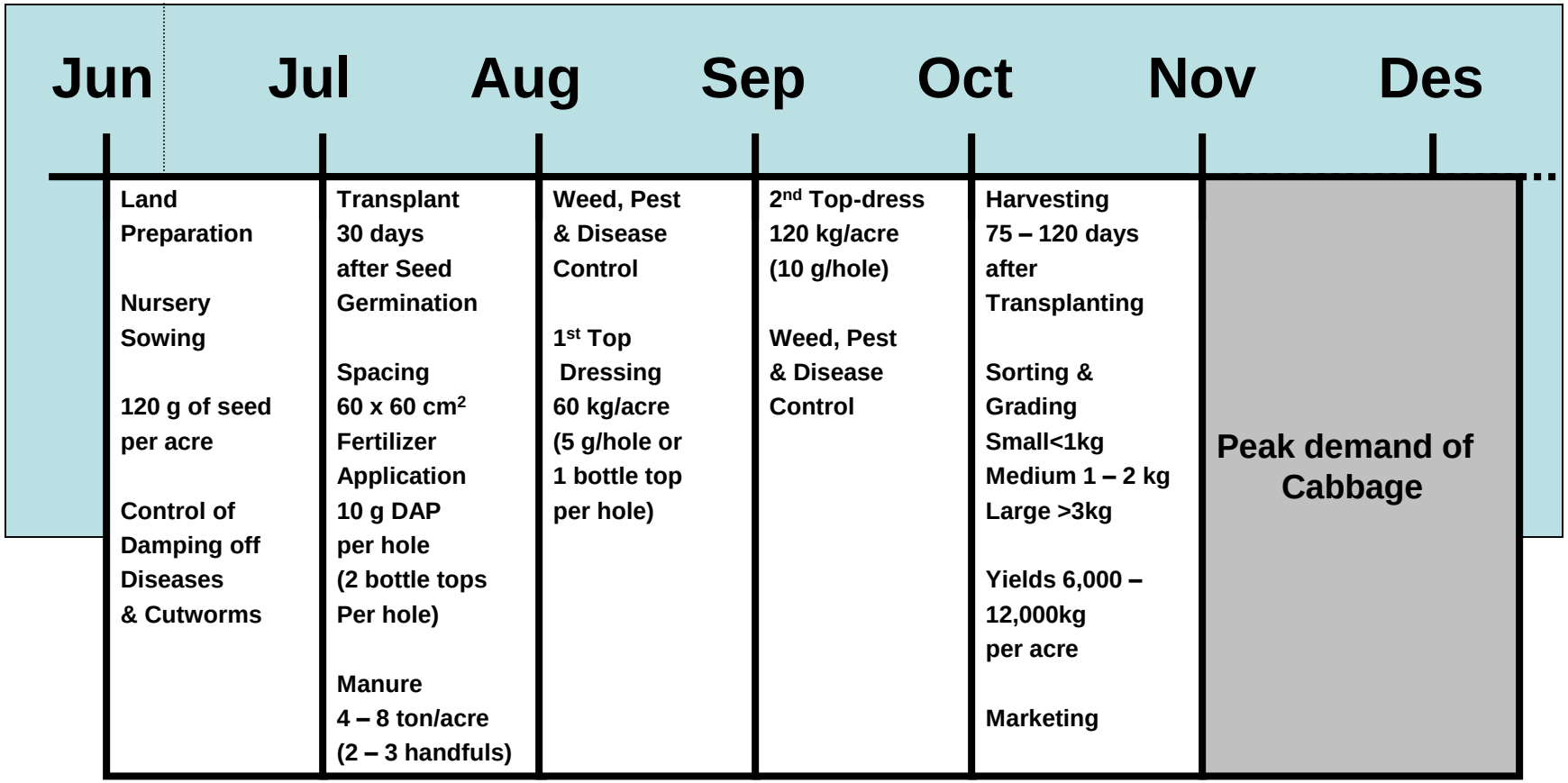
B. The Monthly Activities Sheet

The importance of the monthly activities sheet

- Resources are always scarce more so for smallholder farmers
- However, by using the monthly activities sheet, a farmer can confine his/her resource allocation to immediate needs as indicated by the sheet
- Since the monthly activities sheet indicates the input requirements, farmers working in a group can proportionately pool resources together to meet their monthly input requirements, thus exploiting the economies of scale

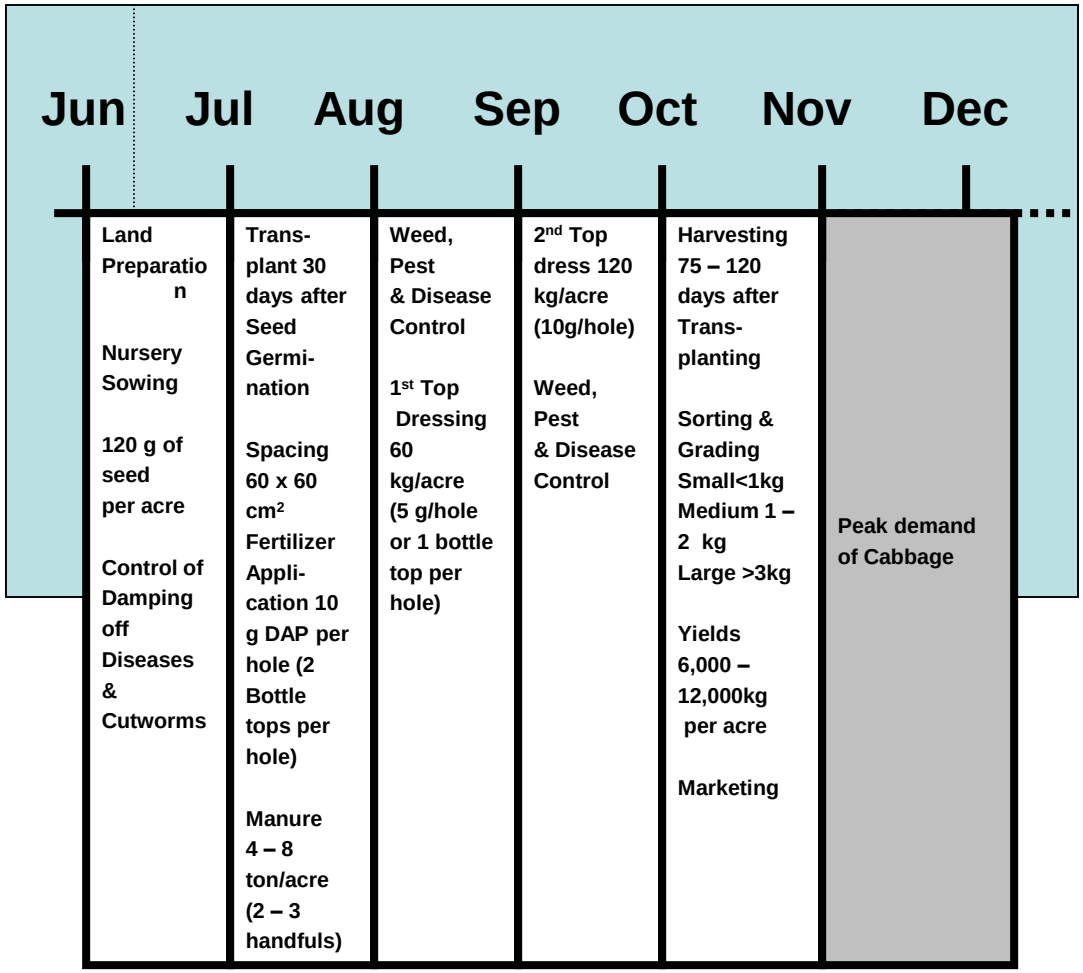
A sample of a monthly Activity Sheet for Cabbage

6. Adjusting a Crop Planting Calendar



Joined crop planting calendar of Cabbage

6. Adjusting a Crop Planting Calendar



Joined crop planting calendar of Cabbage: determining the planting/sowing month for a peak demand in November

How to determine the planting/sowing month for a given peak demand of a produce

- A crop planting calendar provides guidance on which month the planting/sowing should be done in order for harvesting to coincide with the peak market demand for the produce
- Once the month for peak demand on the annual calendar has been determined through the market survey, place the monthly activities sheet against the annual calendar with the last column of the monthly activities sheet (extreme right) directly under the month for peak demand on the annual calendar
- With the superimposition of the annual calendar and the monthly activities sheet as described above, the column of the monthly activities sheet on the extreme left will coincide with the month when the planting/sowing should be done
- The monthly activities sheet is moved along the annual calendar based on market demand

7. How to use a Crop Planting Calendar

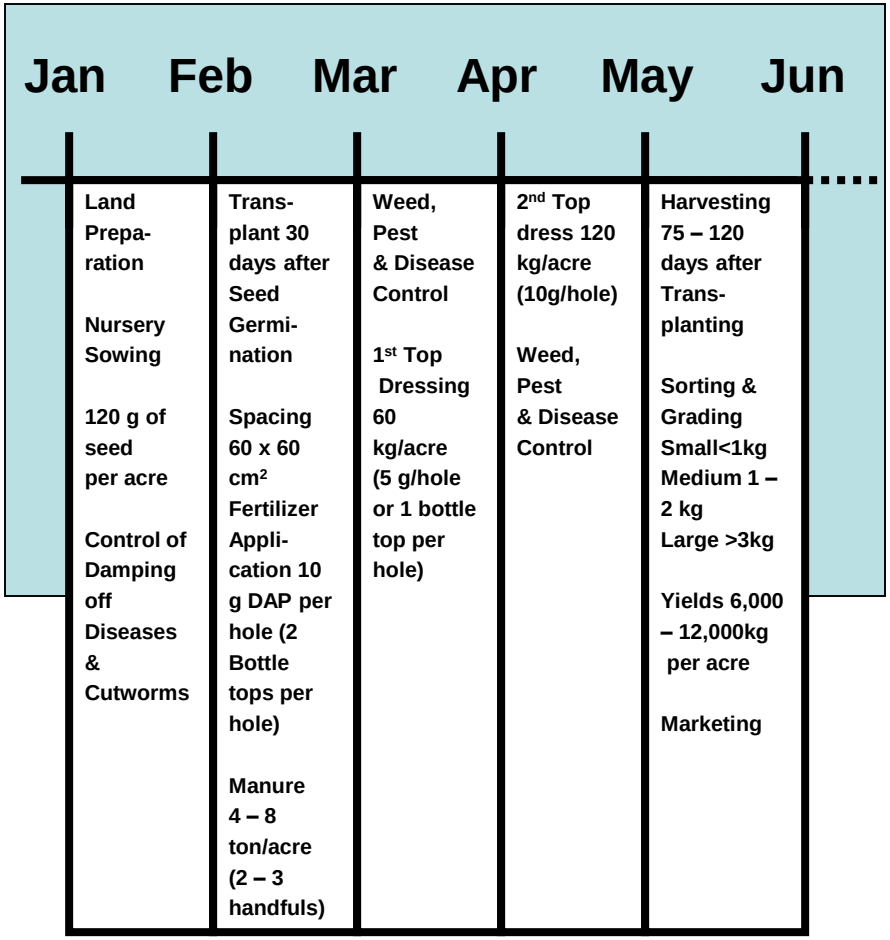


Fig. 1

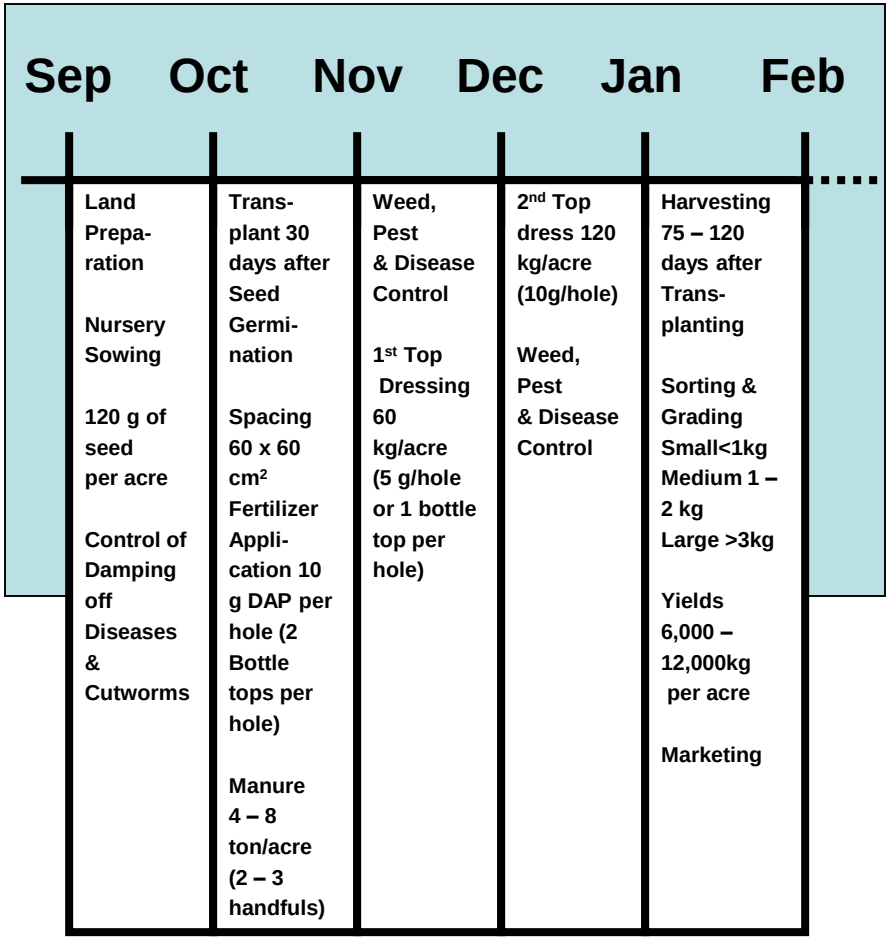


Fig. 2

7. How to use a Crop Planting Calendar

*The figures illustrate how to determine the planting/sowing months for different peak months for produce (cabbage) demand

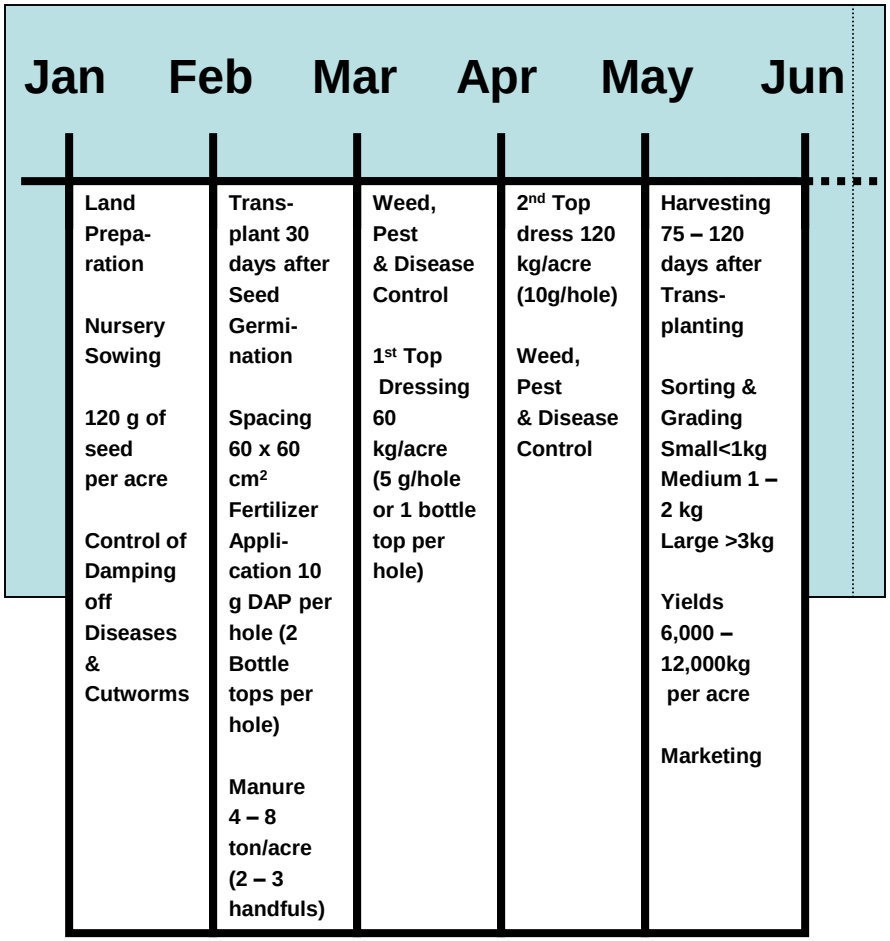


Fig. 1: A planting calendar for Cabbage targeting the peak demands just after June

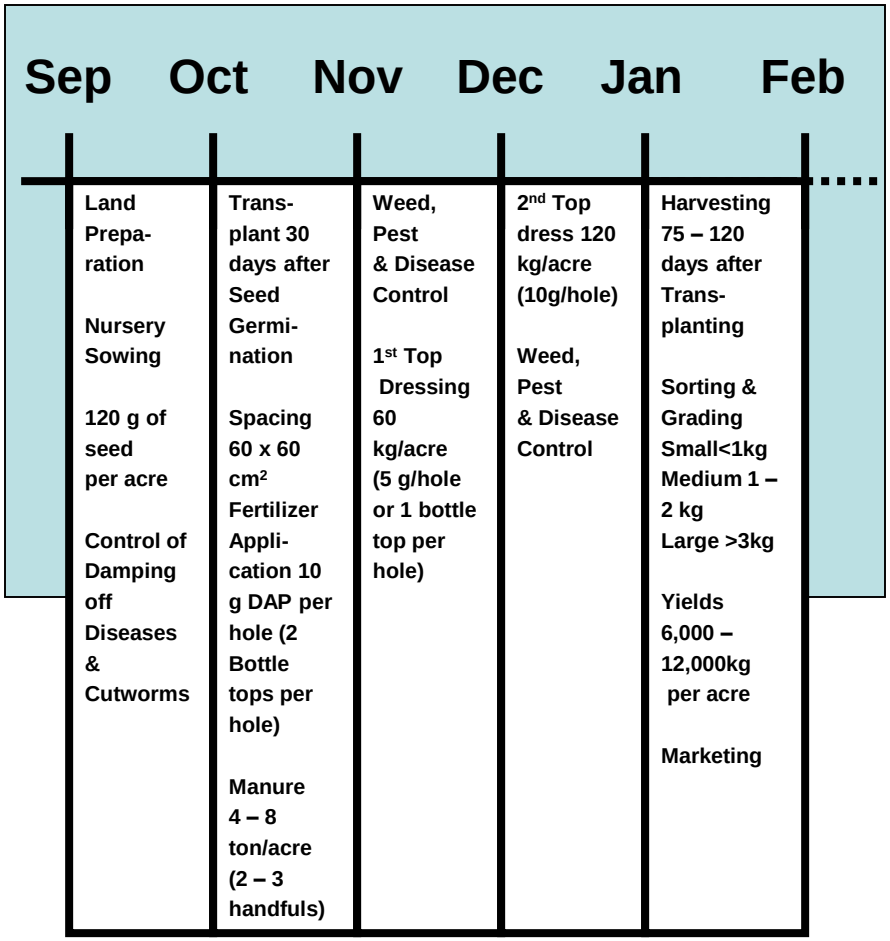


Fig. 2: A planting calendar for Cabbage targeting the peak demands just after February

8. Conclusion

Farmers displaying a crop planting calendar

8. Conclusion

Farmers displaying a crop planting calendar which they have prepared

Conclusion

- A crop planting calendar is a simple and easy tool that can be prepared by farmers
- Farmers can plan future farm activities using the crop planting calendar
- It is a significant planning tool which if properly used can make farming a profitable undertaking