

## Farm Operation – Irrigation

*Sustainable irrigation reduces cost, conserves water and protects the environment.*



1. Farmers should apply water efficiently, and schedule irrigation according to soil water availability and crop needs.
2. Excessive irrigation should be avoided as it may cause soil erosion by run-off and leaching of nutrients, thus contaminating water sources nearby.
3. Soil organic matter, which serves to increase water-holding capacity of fields, should be built up and maintained.
4. Farmers may effectively reduce water evaporation in fields by mulches and cover cropping, hence enhancing water availability.
5. Seepage and evaporation loss of water can be effectively reduced by adopting micro-irrigation methods such as drip or sprinkler (as compared to flood and furrow irrigation).



### About “GAP- CROP”

The GAP-CROP provides guidelines on local sustainable production of safe, healthy vegetables and fruits. It focuses on reducing the risk of chemical contamination (e.g. by pesticide and heavy metal) at farm level. This article is the sixth of a series of 12 Codes of Practice (COP) making up the GAP-CROP. Farmers may voluntarily follow this COP, identify potential problems in their farms, take appropriate control/mitigation measures, and monitor the effectiveness of such measures.





6. Fields should be irrigated early in the morning, late in the evening or at night in order to reduce evaporation loss of water in high ambient temperature.

7. Uneven application of water (e.g. via a sprinkler system during windy weather) should be avoided.

8. The irrigation facilities (pools, channels, pumps, pipes, hoses, etc.) should be checked regularly against leakage, seepage and other damages. Any defects found should be rectified or repaired promptly.

9. Farmers must not use untreated sewage water for irrigation.



**Next COP:**  
Farm Operation –  
Pest and Disease Management

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