



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BULACAN

January 13, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 32, s. 2026

DIVISION SEARCH FOR BEST SCHOOL GARDEN THROUGH DOST CEST-AGRI-SCIENCE IN SCHOOL: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOR GROWTH, INNOVATION, AND PRODUCTIVITY OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
Division Chiefs
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public Elementary/ Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. In line with the implementation of Department of Science and Technology's Project CEST (Community Empowerment Through Science and Technology-Agri-Science in School: Sustainable Agriculture for Growth, Innovation, and Productivity), this Office announces the conduct of Division Search for Best School Garden Implementers through DOST CEST-Agri-Science in School: Sustainable Agriculture from Growth, Innovation, and Productivity of School Community for School Year 2025-2026.
2. The search aims to:
 - a. recognize the school implementers exemplary performance in the implementation of DOST CEST-Agri Science in School;
 - b. identify the best practices and innovations implemented by the schools that can be shared and replicated by other schools; and
 - c. validate the implementation of the project relative to its objectives.
3. The participants to this search are the Ten (10) school beneficiaries of 2025-2026 DOST CEST-Agri-Science in School:

School	District
Elementary	
1. Gabihan Elementary School	San Ildefonso South District
2. Sapang Dayap Elementary School	San Ildefonso South District
3. Alagao Elementary School	San Ildefonso South District
4. Palapala Elementary School	San Ildefonso South District
5. Sapang Putik Elementary School	San Ildefonso South District
Secondary	
6. Calawitan National High School	San Ildefonso North District
7. Sta. Catalina National High School	San Ildefonso North District
8. San Ildefonso National High School	San Ildefonso North District
9. Akle High School	San Ildefonso South District
10. Upig High School	San Ildefonso South District



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4. The following is the implementation timeline of the activities:

Date	Activity	Persons Involved
October 27, 2025	Launching of the Project	DOST Representative Lead Proponent School Beneficiaries
November-December 2025	Transportation and Delivery of Planting Toolkits and Seedlings to School Beneficiaries	Lead Proponent School Beneficiaries
December 2025 to January 2026	Establishment of Agri-Science HUB	School Beneficiaries
January 2026	Capacity Building on Sustainable Agriculture, Good Agriculture Practice and/or Organic-Agriculture	DOST Representative Lead Proponent School Beneficiaries
January 19-31, 2026	Monitoring-Enhancement of Agri-Science Hub	DOST Representative DepEd Representative School Beneficiaries
February 5-10, 2026	School Garden Validation for Best School Garden	DOST Representative DepEd Representative School Beneficiaries
February 26, 2026	Awarding of Winners	DOST Representative DepEd Representative School Beneficiaries

5. Meal, travel, and other incidental expenses of the participants shall be charged against school canteen funds and/or local funds while prizes, plaque, and certificates for the annual awarding of the Best School Garden shall be charged against DOST CEST Fund and Division MOOE subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

6. Attached are the List of Categories, Criteria for Judging, List of Validators and Committees, and Awards and Prizes for reference.

7. This Memorandum serves as the travel order of the participants.

8. Wide and immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is earnestly desired.

CECILIA E. VALDERAMA, PhD, CESO VI
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Officer-In Charge
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent



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Enclosure No. 1 of Division Memorandum No. 31, s. 2026

A. CONTEST CATEGORIES

Categories	Description	Criteria for Judging	%
1. Best School Garden	The overall performance of the school garden with relation to its: Creativity design; eco-friendly design; herbs/medicinal plants; vegetable plants; and health and growth of its plant	Creativity and Layout (Originality of design, aesthetic features, and functionality) Eco-friendly Garden (Resourceful to use recycled materials and utilizing sustainability practices) rainwater harvesting for irrigation and organic fertilizer) Herbs/Medicinal Garden (Plants are accessible for observation and learning) Vegetable Garden (Use the garden as learning site for agriculture and crops/commodity are producing at reasonable yield) Health and Growth of the Garden (Well maintained, and overall plant condition)	20% 20% 20% 20% 20% 100%
2.1 Most Creative Design	This will be based on the layout and design of the garden. How the school and students made the space beautiful at the same time sustainable and edible space garden	Creativity and Layout (Space was well utilized (farm layout), and visually pleasing design)	70%



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		Involvement of Students and use of sustainable Practices (Students participation in planning and management, and evidence of utilizing sustainable practices (water conservation, organic fertilizer, and composting))	30%
			100%
2.2 Most Eco-Friendly Garden	This will be based on how the students and school use sustainable materials to beautify their garden	Creativity and Layout (Originality of design, aesthetic features and functionality)	30%
		Involvement of Students and use of sustainable Practices (Students participation in planning and management, and evidence of utilizing sustainable practices (water conservation, organic fertilizer, and composting))	70%
			100%
2.3 Best in Herb/Medicinal Plants Garden	This will be based on the element, specifically the addition of herbal/medicinal plants on the garden. Except from fruits and vegetables planted in the area, a variety of herbs/medicinal plants are encouraged to promote medicinal plant use in the community	Creativity and Layout (Originality of design, aesthetic features and functionality)	30%
		Health and Growth of Herbs/Medicinal plants -(Plants are accessible for observation and learning)	30%
		Involvement of Students and use of sustainable Practices (Students participation in planning and	20%



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		management, and evidence of utilizing sustainable practices (water conservation, organic fertilizer, and composting)	
		Presentation and Documentation (Clear labeling and identification of each crop/plant (with scientific name and images), and overall presentation of the garden (informative classification of plants, kingdom, and variety)	10%
		Cleanliness and Maintenance (Organized and well maintained of planting tool kits and evidence that the garden is well maintained)	10%
			100%
2.4 Best in Vegetable Garden	This will be based on the variety of vegetables planted in the area and how healthy crops grow.	Creativity and Layout (Originality of design, aesthetic features and functionality) Health and Growth of Vegetables- (Plants are accessible for observation and learning) Involvement of Students and use of sustainable Practices (Students participation in planning and management, and evidence of utilizing sustainable practices (water conservation,	30% 30% 20%



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		organic fertilizer, and composting)	
		Presentation and Documentation (Clear labeling and identification of each crop/plant (with scientific name and images), and overall presentation of the garden (informative classification of plants, kingdom, and variety)	10%
		Cleanliness and Maintenance (Organized and well maintained of planting tool kits and evidence that the garden is well maintained)	10%
			100%

B. List of Validators and Committees

Validators		
Name	Position	Organization
1. Jett T. Feliciano	RCEST Team-Head	DOST
2. Ms. Angelita Q. Parungao	CEST Team Member	DOST
3. Neil Granado	CEST Team Member	DOST
4. John Adams R. Aguilera	CEST Team Member	DOST
5. Aira Ronalie Santos	CEST Team Member	DOST
6. Joel I. Vasallo, PhD	Education Program Supervisor	DepED- SDO Bulacan
7. Bernardino S. Facun	President-ABACA Bulacan	DepED-SDO Bulacan
8. Petronilla T. Dela Torre	School Principal- ABACA Officer	DepED-SDO Bulacan

Committees		
Joel I. Vasallo, PhD	Chairman	DepED
Petronilla T. Dela Torre	Co- Chairman	DepED
Jean S. Catua	Member	DepED
Jazzy G. Intacto	Member	DepED
Leilanie S. Supan	Member	DepED
Randy B. Bernabe	Member	DepED



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C. Awards and Prizes

Awards	Prize	Source of Funds
Category 1		
Best School Garden		
Champion	Smart Agriculture Vertical Tower worth 20, 000.00 Plaque/Certificates	DOST CEST Fund
1 st Place	Smart Agriculture Vertical Tower worth 15, 000.00 Plaque/Certificates	DOST CEST Fund
2 nd Place	Smart Agriculture Vertical Tower worth 10, 000.00 Plaque/Certificates	DOST CEST Fund
Category 2		
Most Creative Design		
Champion	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
1 st Place	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
2 nd Place	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
Most Eco-Friendly Garden		
Champion	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
1 st Place	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
2 nd Place	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
Best in Herb/Medicinal Plants Garden		
Champion	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
1 st Place	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
2 nd Place	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
Best in Vegetable Garden		
Champion	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
1 st Place	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE
2 nd Place	Cash/Plaque/Certificates	SDO MOOE

Sample Layout of School Garden



Sample Layout of School Garden

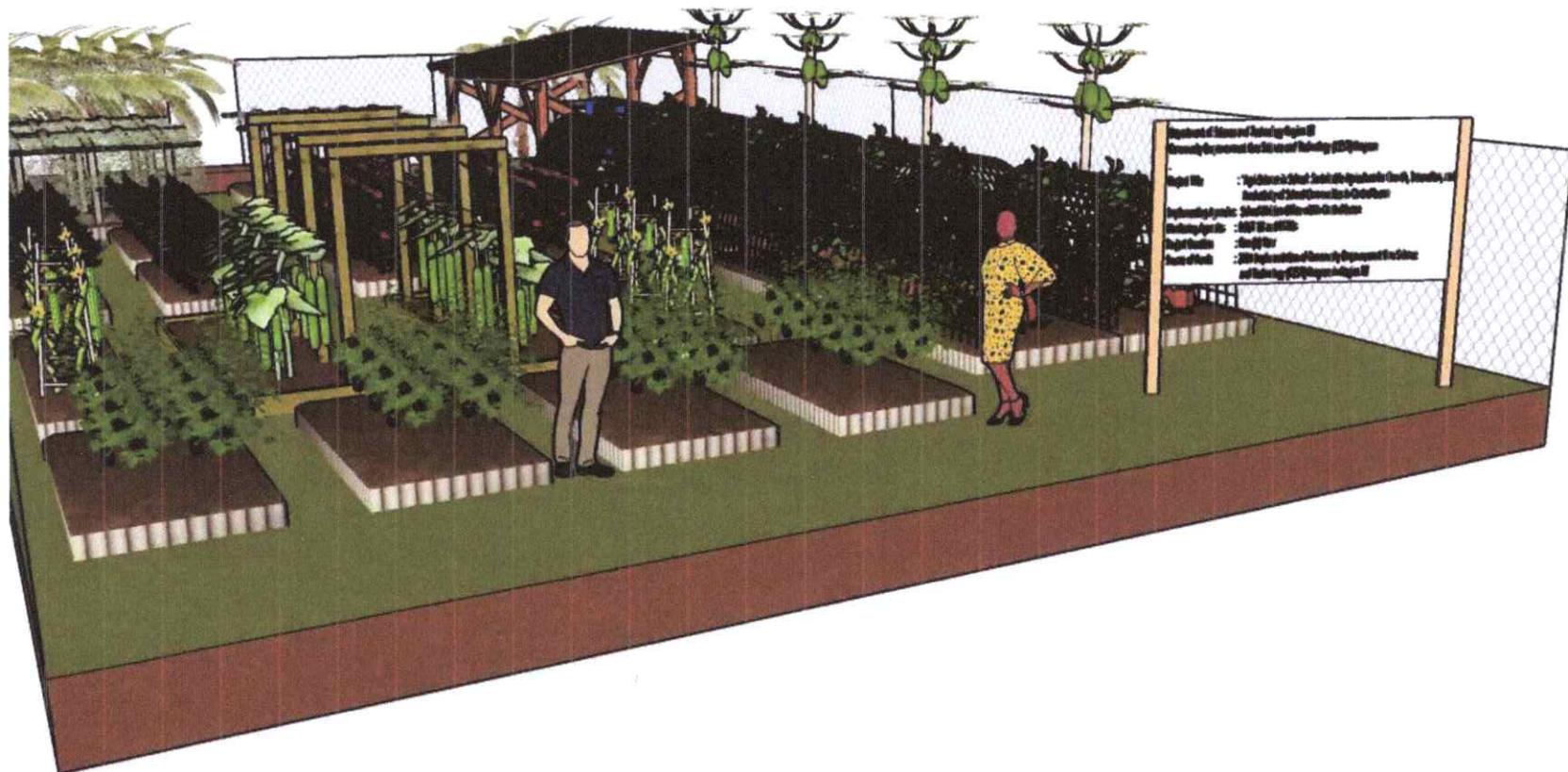


TOP VIEW

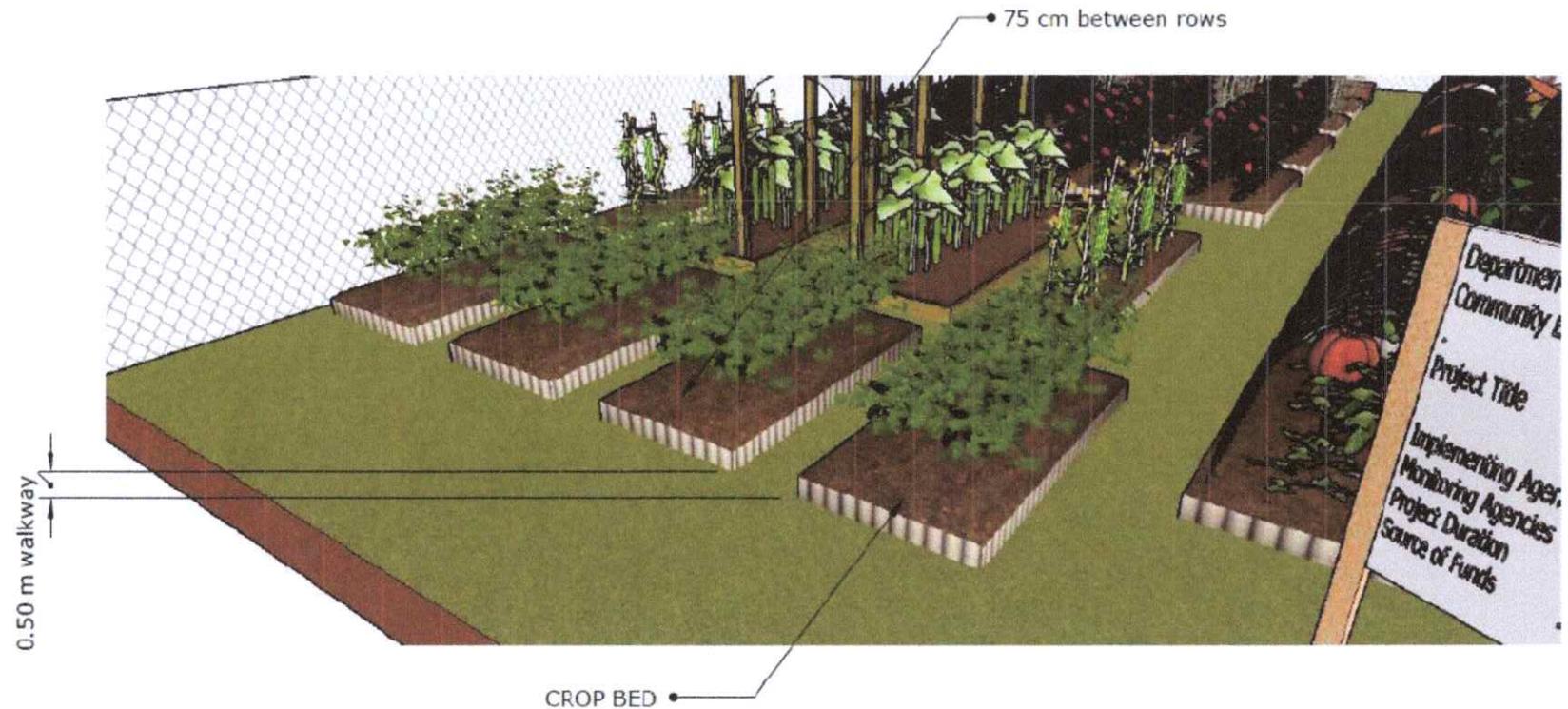
6 different crops with school garden shed consists of water storage for irrigation and planting tool kit shelf; windrow composter; and vine supported structures for running crops



Sample Layout of School Garden



Sample Layout of School Garden

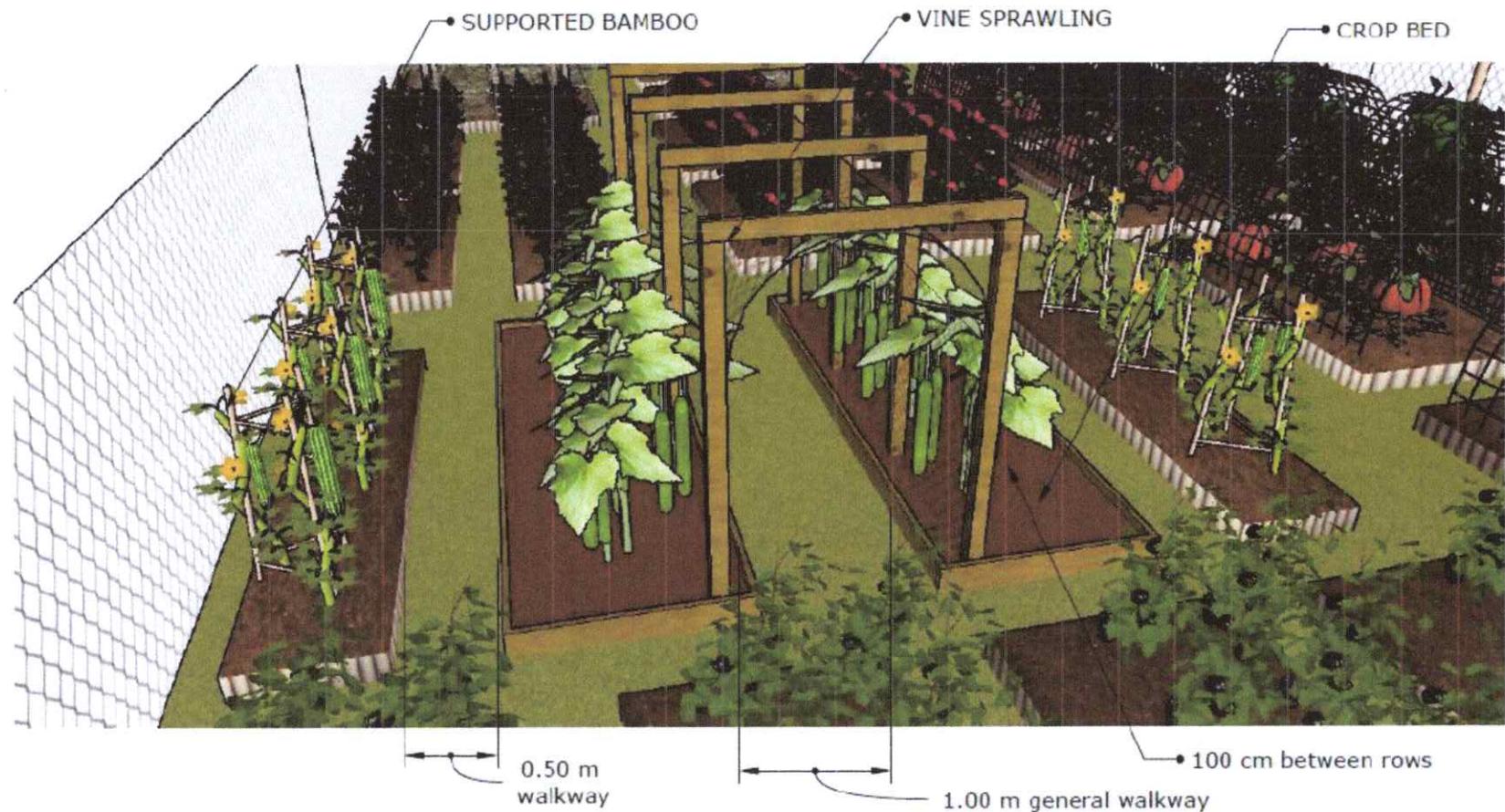


CROP 1: EGGPLANT

2 trays consisting of 48 seedlings with a recommended crop spacing of 75 cm between rows and 50 cm between hills



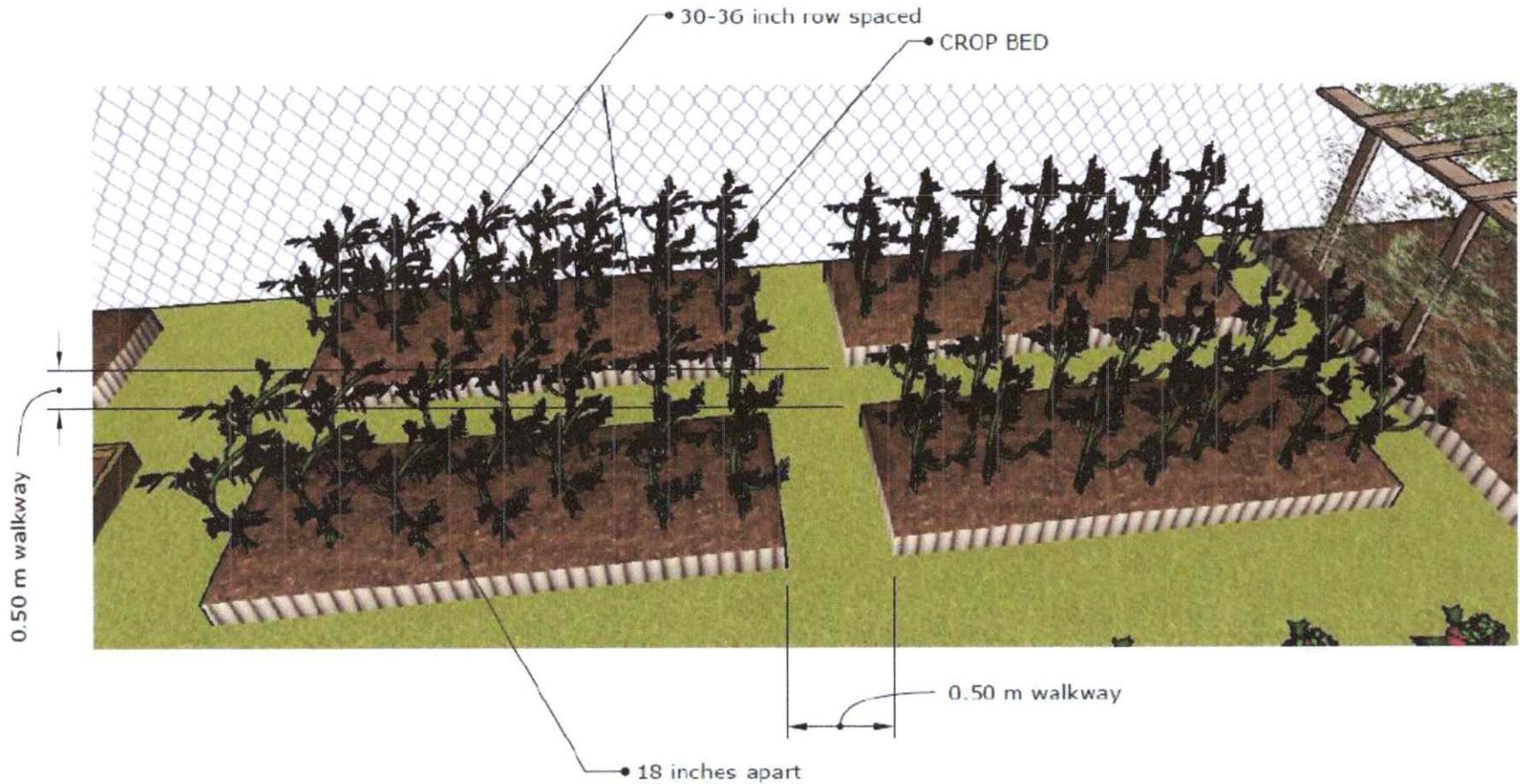
Sample Layout of School Garden



CROP 2: CUCUMBER

2 trays consisting of 48 seedlings with a recommended crop spacing of 50 cm between plants within a row and 100 cm between rows

Sample Layout of School Garden



CROP 3: CHILLI

2 trays consisting of 48 seedlings with a recommended crop spacing of 18 inches apart within rows, with rows spaced 30 to 36 inches apart



Sample Layout of School Garden

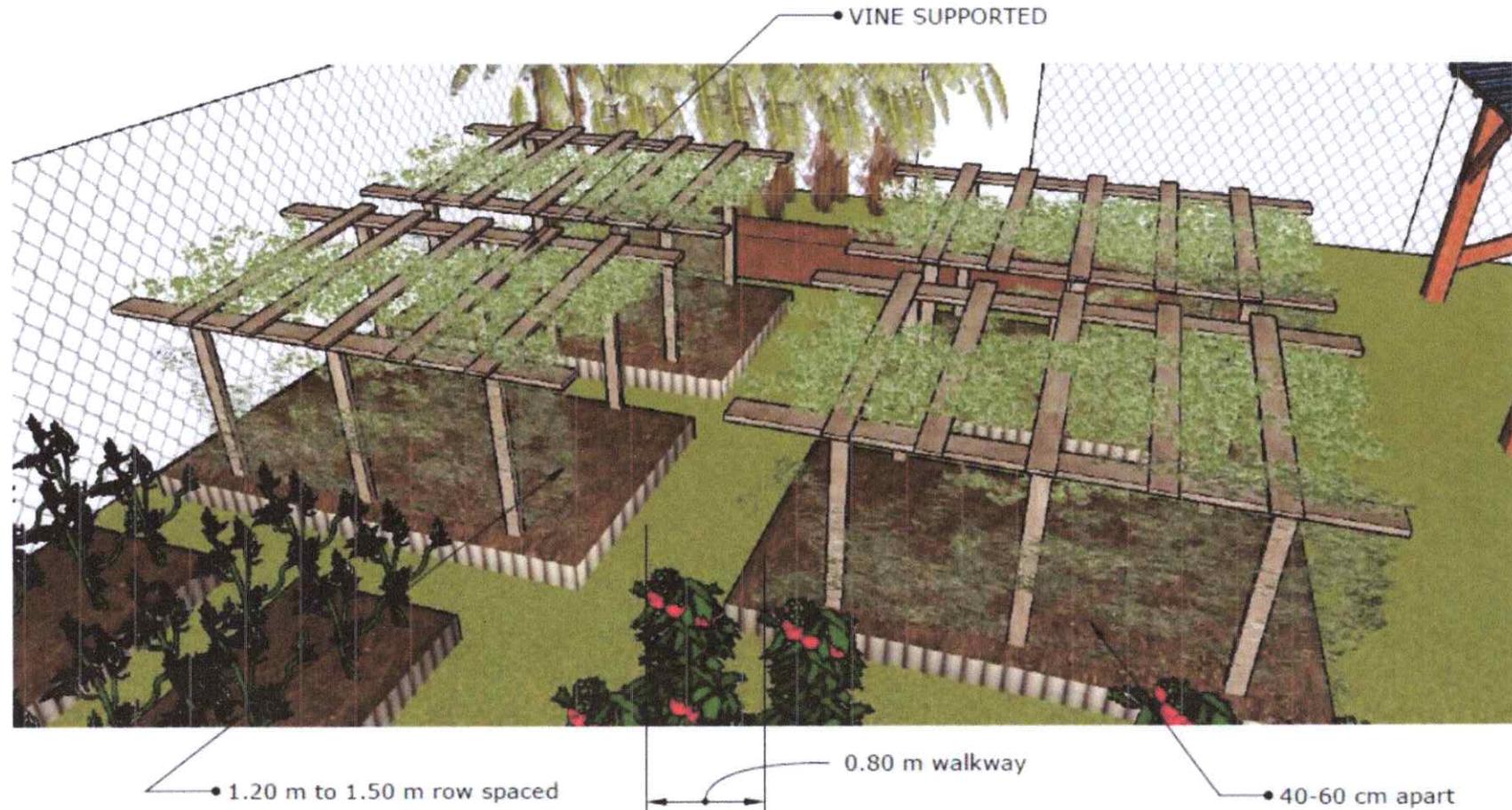


CROP 4: TOMATO

2 trays consisting of 48 seedlings with a recommended crop spacing of 50 cm between plants and 75 -100 cm between rows



Sample Layout of School Garden

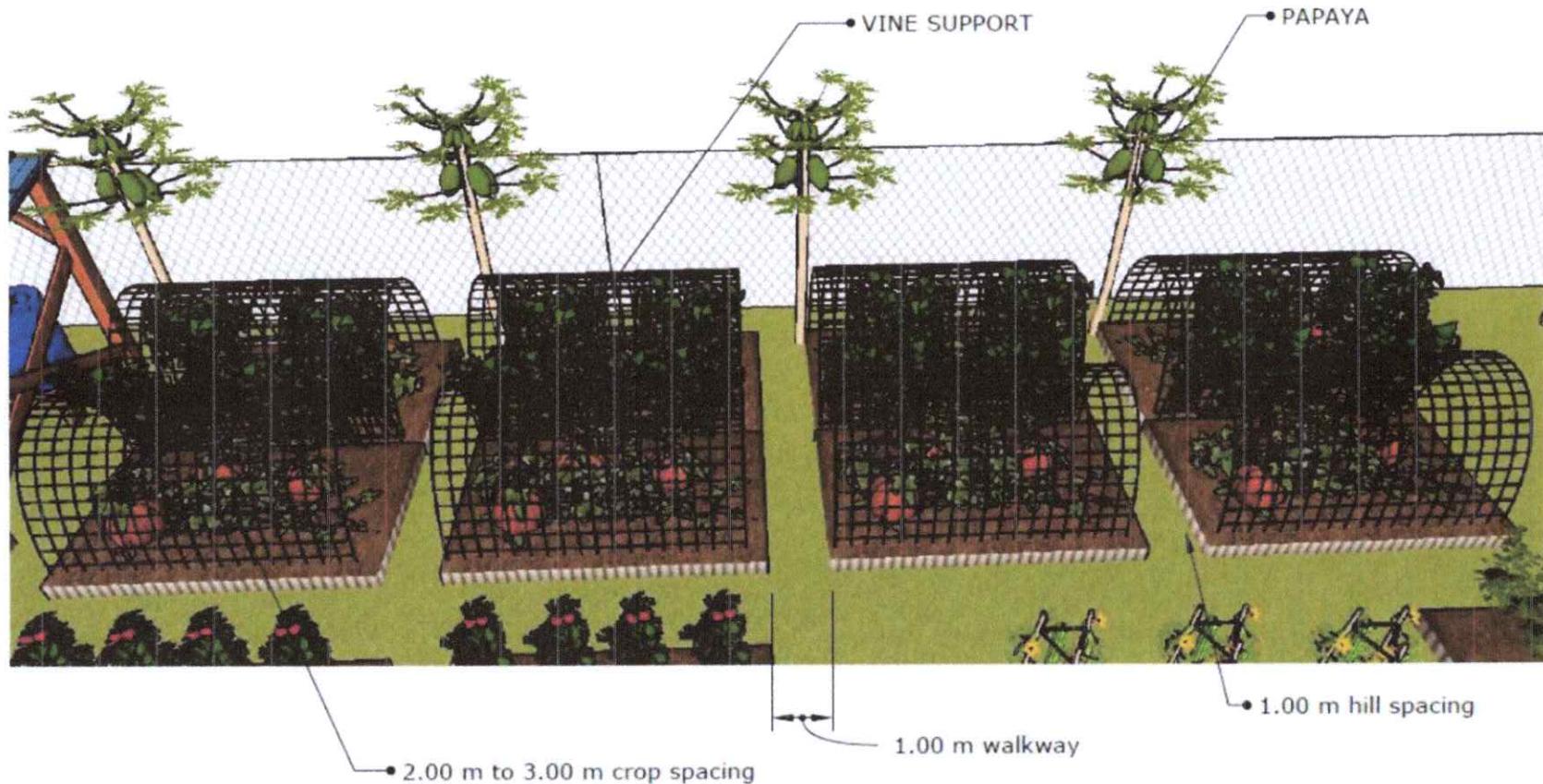


CROP 5: BITTER GOURD

2 trays consisting of 48 seedlings with a recommended crop spacing of 40–60 cm apart in rows spaced 1.2–1.5 m apart



Sample Layout of School Garden

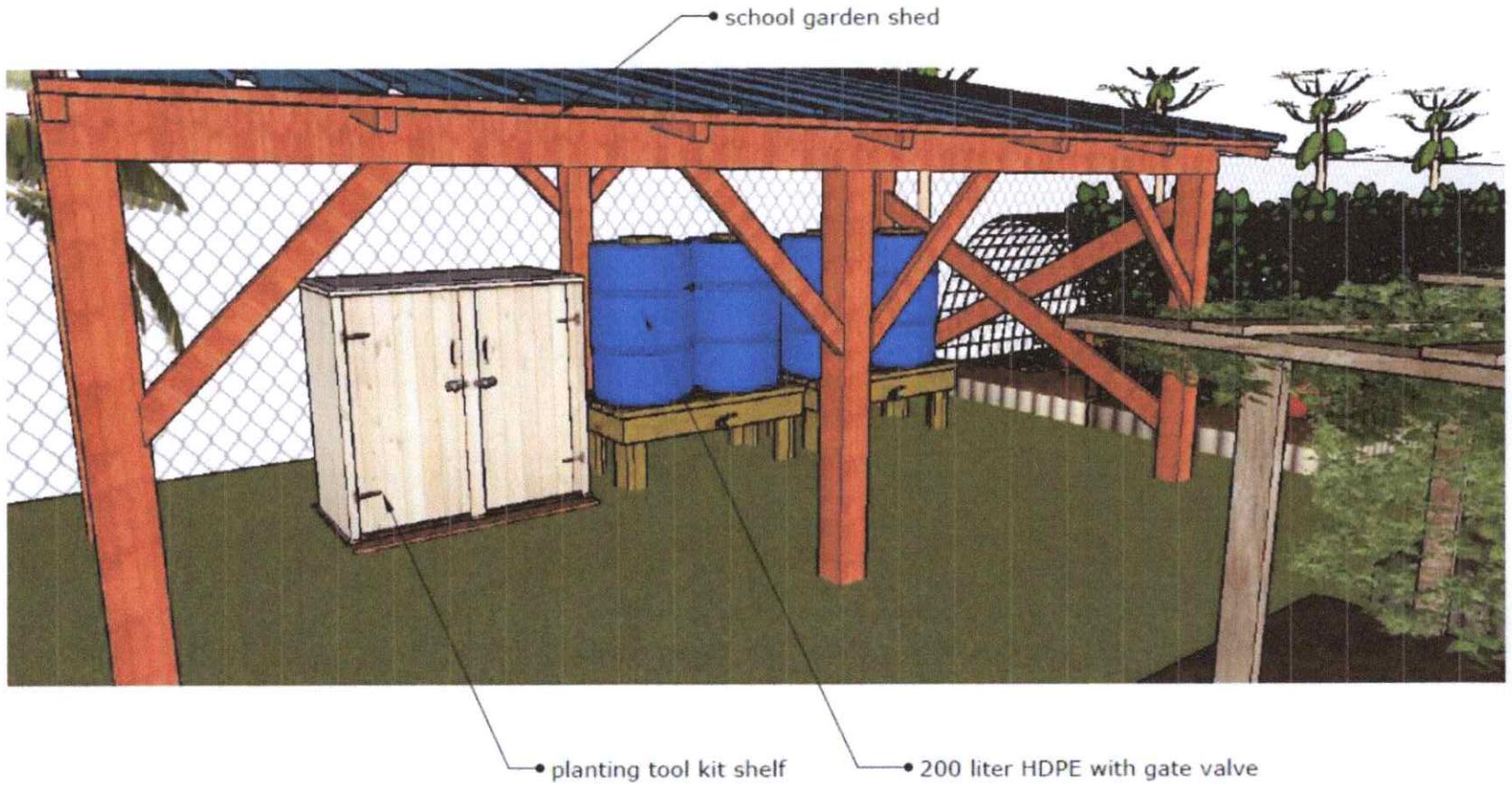


CROP 6: SQUASH

2 trays consisting of 48 seedlings with a recommended crop spacing of 2-3 m between rows and 1 m between hills



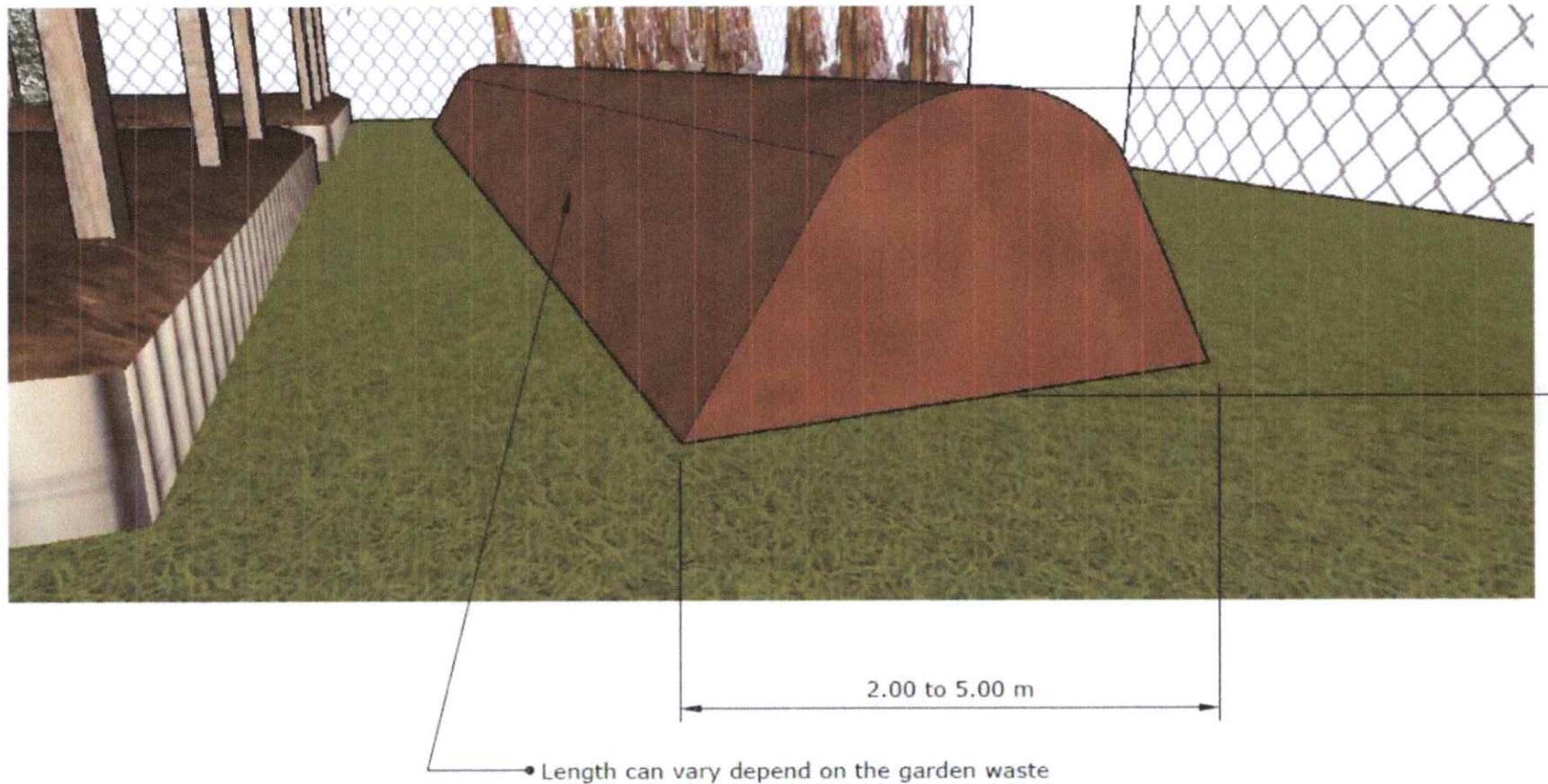
Sample Layout of School Garden



IRRIGATION WATER STORAGE AND PLANTING TOOL KIT SHELF
to maximize crop yield, sufficient supply of water is needed; safe keep the tools to prolong its service life



Sample Layout of School Garden



FARM COMPOSTING

Agricultural solid waste management enables to mitigate solid residuals while generating organic fertilizer using "Windrow Composting"

