trash and soil may wash into the water causing pollution.

**Don't** plant a crop just because others are doing so, unless there is good market.



**Don't** plant more than you can market at a fair price.

**Don't** "force ripen" your fruits by picking them too early.

**Don't** reap immature or damaged crops, as these may not be marketable.

# Tips for Livestock

**Do** keep animals penned and feed them grass **Calliandra** or quick stick cuttings.

**Don't** tie animals too close to rivers, streams or ponds. Their waste will pollute the water.

**Don't** let animals graze and trample tree seed-

lings and crops. Damages are expensive and animals can be impounded.

# Tips for Pest Control



**Do** practice inter-cropping and crop rotation, to help restore soil nutrients, and to ensure that pest populations do not become too large.

**Do** remove weeds and trash that are too close to crops so that snails, slugs, caterpillars and mice do not have somewhere to hide and become a problem.



**Do** Spray ONLY IF you have specific pest and diseases that need to be controlled.

**Don't** wash sprayers or your crops in rivers or ponds, to ensure that chemicals do not pollute the water.

**Don't** dispose of pesticides or other farm chemicals in rivers or ponds.

R2RW is a five-year project of the Government of Jamaica's National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) and the Government of the United States through its Agency for International Development (USAID) and is Implemented in Jamaica by Associates in Rural Development, Inc. (ARD).







5 Oxford Park Avenue Kingston 5 Jamaica, W.I.

Email: ard@cwjamaica.com Web: http://www.r2rw-jm.org

Tel: 754-7598

Fax: 906-2268 or 754-3913



# Dos & Don'ts: Watershed Management Tips for Farmers



## Tips to Protect the Soil

Do practice minimum tillage, or use individual basins on hillsides to minimize soil loss.

**Do** practice alley cropping and plant leguminous hedgerows such as *Gliricidia* (quick stick), or *Calliandra*. These plants help to restore soil nutrients.

Do plant shrubs and grasses on roadsides.

Flowering plants, such as bougainvillea and hibiscus not only stabilize the soil, they also provide beauty!

**Do** plant low shrubs as excellent hedges and borders to provide beauty and privacy. They can be pruned and maintained easily.

**Don't** use fire to clear your land for any purpose. Fire depletes soil nutrients and causes erosion.

Don't plant on land that is extra rocky or stony. These soils do not contain many plant nutrients and dry out easily in drought periods.

**Don't** cultivate or till the soil unnecessarily especially on hillsides where loose soil is easily washed away.

Don't remove too many weeds, mulch or other



ground cover to expose the soil to the elements. Exposed soil washes away easily and will dry out.

### **Tips for Tree Crops**

Do plant tree crops such as lime, pimento, guava, and soursop in pockets of deep soils on slopes. They will help to stabilize the soil.

**Do** prune fruit trees to limit shade for any shorter crops growing below, and prevent wind damage.

Don't let fruit trees grow too tall as they can become unmanageable and make it difficult to reap fruits.

## **Tips for Timber Trees**

**Do** plant timber trees, fruit trees and grasses on steep slopes. They don't require land tillage, and are good for soil and water conservation.

**Do** let timber trees grow tall so that they will be worth more money when they mature.

**Do** let trees, bamboo and tall grasses grow along riverbeds, but take care that their leaves and fruit do not fall in the water to decay and cause pollution.

Don't plant trees too near to buildings or fences. As they



grow, their roots may damage pipes and foundations and falling branches can be dangerous.

**Don't** plant trees that will grow very large on steep road banks. The branches and fruits of large trees can

be a danger, and such trees may be easily uprooted during heavy winds causing road blockage or landslides.

Don't plant weak seedlings that will grow poorly. Always select from the best quality mother tree you can find to set healthy seedlings or cuttings.

## Tips for Vegetables

**Do** use dried mulch between your crops to limit weeds and to replenish the soil.

**Do** space compatible crops close together. This makes maximum use of land and soil nutrients, and the plants may be thinned out later.

Don't plant root crops, vegetables, herbs or spices on steep land that require tillage. Disturbing the soil may lead to soil erosion and land slippage.

**Don't** plant vegetables or root crops too near to rivers or ponds. Fertilizers, pesticides, plant