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Citrus Orchard Foreman Occupational Learning

Work Scenario Guide

D3: Ongoing Monitoring

Qualification:	110667 – Occupational Certificate: Orchard and Vineyard Foreman
Work Scenario:	D3: Ongoing Monitoring
Learning Area:	D: Oversee the monitoring of plant health
Scenario Description:	You need to make sure that your implemented plans are working and improving the health of your trees. To do this, you need to implement ongoing monitoring systems to continuously check the tree health and nutritional status.

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Alignment Information

Qualification

The content of this learner guide is aligned to the following occupational qualification:

SAQA QUAL ID	Qualification Title			
110667	Occupational Certificate: Orchard and Vineyard Foreman			
Originator				
Development Quality Partner – AgriSETA				
Primary Or Delegated Quality Assurance Functionary			NQF Sub-Framework	
-			OQSF - Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework	
QUALIFICATION TYPE		FIELD		SUBFIELD
Occupational Certificate		Field 01 - Agriculture and Nature Conservation		Primary Agriculture
Abet Band	Minimum Credits	Pre-2009 NQF Level	NQF Level	Qual Class
Undefined	147	Not Applicable	NQF Level 04	Regular-ELOAC

Modules

The content of this learner guide is aligned to the following modules of the occupational qualification above.

Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credits
Knowledge Modules			
611202-001-00-KM-01	Plant Structure and Physiology	4	5
611202-001-00-KM-02	Vineyard or Orchard Establishment	3	2
611202-001-00-KM-03	Vineyard or Orchard Manipulation Processes	3	8
611202-001-00-KM-04	Harvesting	3	4
611202-001-00-KM-05	Basic Principles of Plant Nutrition	4	4
611202-001-00-KM-06	Crop Protection	3	3
611202-001-00-KM-07	Assets in Horticultural Production	3	2
611202-001-00-KM-08	Farm Business Management and Farming Process Management	4	8
611202-001-00-KM-09	Human Resource Management and Processes	4	8
611202-001-00-KM-10	Overseeing Farming Resource Utilisation	4	8
Practical Skill Modules			
611202-001-00-PM-01	Organise, Allocate and Monitor Availability and Productive Use of Resources	4	5
611202-001-00-PM-2a	Set Team and Individual Performance Goals to Enhancing Team Performance	4	10
611202-001-00-PM-2b	Control Vineyard or Orchard Practices	4	10

611202-001-00-PM-03	Supply Accurate Daily Orchard or Vineyard and Production Information	4	10
Work Experience Modules			
611202-001-00-WM-01	Vineyard or Orchard Resource Optimisation	4	20
611202-001-00-WM-02	Skilled and Motivated Work Team Output	4	20
611202-001-00-WM-03	Daily Orchard or Vineyard and Production Information Availability	4	20

Learning Outcomes

The content of this learner guide is aligned to the following learning outcomes of the modules above.

Knowledge Topics	
Outcome Code	Module Title
KM-05-KT05	Irrigation
IAC0511	The management of nutrient leaching through irrigation scheduling is discussed
IAC0512	The prevention of contamination through sound fertilisation and irrigation practices is described
KM-06-KT01	Principles of integrated pest and disease management
IAC0114	The importance and procedure for post-application monitoring is explained
Practical Skills	
PM-03-PS03	Scout to ascertain crop health
IAC0301	The scouting plan is followed to specification
IAC0302	The recommended adjustments to the production plan are relevant and based on information obtained by scouting
PA0301	Read and interpret the scouting plan
PA0302	Decide on the applicable scouting procedure
PA0303	Scout a Vineyard or orchard to ascertain plant health and its impact on production tasks and achievement of production targets
PA0304	Interpret scouting information and the implication for operations

Chapter 1

Ongoing Monitoring

learning outcomes

The content of this chapter is aimed at helping you to:

- Plan and manage ongoing monitoring of plant health.

1. Ongoing Monitoring

We have now discussed how to spot nutrient deficiencies and how to rectify them. Unfortunately, this is not a job you can do alone. You will need a well-trained team of scouts to continuously monitor the nutritional status of your trees. In this material we will discuss how to manage these workers, and how to organise and plan ongoing monitoring.

Ongoing monitoring refers to regularly assessing the nutritional status of your trees, using the methods we discussed in the plant health monitoring material in a more systematic way. These two methods are visual monitoring (AKA scouting) and sampling. As sampling is done far more rarely than visual scouting, we will here focus on visual scouting. If you need more information on sampling, you should revisit the plant health monitoring material.

2. Scout Management

Scouts are the backbone of ongoing monitoring. They are responsible for conducting regular visual inspections in the orchard, by inspecting the trees for symptoms of nutrient deficiencies, and gathering data for analysis. Managing and training your scouts effectively will ensure that nutritional issues are detected early, and can be handled immediately, before they cause major damage.

Since scouting is based around inspection for symptoms, your scouts obviously need to be well trained in the technique of scouting, and very knowledgeable of the various symptoms to look out for. These symptoms are discussed in detail in the material about plant health management and monitoring.

When sampling is required, scouts will most likely be responsible for collecting the soil and leaf samples. The proper technique for this is described in the material about plant health management and monitoring.

An important part of scouting is keeping high quality records. These should be done in the same format by all scouts, ideally using a standardised form. This will allow data to be easily compiled and compared. This data should include all their observations, including the location and age of the tree in question, the specific symptoms observed, and any environmental or production-related factors that could affect plant nutrition (such as recent fertilisation or waterlogging due to flooding).

As with any team, it is important that your scouts are well coordinated, and work together effectively. If there is confusion and tension between the scouts, they may end up doing unnecessary work (such as scouting the same area twice), or leaving areas un-scouted. For advice on team management, refer to the relevant material.

You or another qualified supervisor should oversee the scouting to ensure that they follow protocols and do the job properly. It is also good practice to hold regular team meetings to

get feedback, check in with the scouts, and inform them of any changes to procedure. These meetings will also help the scouts feel more heard and respected.

3. Scout Training

For any scout (or any worker) to do their job effectively, they need good quality training. For a technical job like scouting where there are many symptoms to memorise and differentiate between, your scouts need to be well-trained initially, while being retrained and refreshed as industry research develops.

It is therefore essential to send your scouts for appropriate training. There are many service providers in South Africa, including the Citrus Academy and the CRI, who can provide high quality, up-to-date information and training to your scouts.

Further, it is also a good idea to build a relationship with local experts in nutrition and diseases. They may be very helpful in identifying a disease or condition that you are unfamiliar with or may be new to your area. It will also be necessary to work with these experts to get samples properly analysed.

summary

Chapter 1 – Ongoing Monitoring

- Nutrition monitoring is not a job you can do alone, so you will need a well-trained team of scouts.
- The two methods of ongoing monitoring are visual scouting and sampling.
- Scouts are responsible for conducting regular visual inspections in the orchard and gathering data for analysis.
- When sampling is required, scouts will most likely be responsible for collecting the soil and leaf samples.
- All scouts should keep high quality records in the same format, ideally using a standardised form.
- Scouting data should include the location and age of the scouted tree, the specific symptoms observed, and any environmental or production-related factors that could affect plant nutrition.
- It is good practice to hold regular team meetings to get feedback, check in with the scouts, and inform them of any changes to procedure.
- Scouts should be sent for high quality training and supplied with up-to-date information.
- Local experts in nutrition and diseases may be very helpful in identifying a disease or condition that you are unfamiliar with or may be new to your area.

assessment activities

- ✓ **Activity P1:** Complete this activity to test your knowledge of ongoing monitoring.
- ✓ **Activity F1:** Complete this activity to test your knowledge of the entire module.