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# Diversification Plan

Each family could grow all the plants they use for food. To achieve this, it would be important to plan in advance what they are going to plant in each production cycle, taking into account the foods and herbs that interest them most, to have a rich and diverse diet; but also, to have surpluses that generate income.



These are important decisions for the family. It is worth spending the time discussing the food and medicinal plants, herbs, spices, shrubs, fibers, etc. that you are going to grow, in which areas of your property, as well as the bushes and trees of interest.



When planning, start the tradition of producing and conserving seeds for the next sowings and the following generations.

Once you have decided what to plant, decide for which plants you already have seeds. For new crops, you will have to identify where you could get the plants or seeds to start, preferably from neighbors or another local source.



Include in the plan, what they are going to plant, where and when. Make a record of the plan with a drawing or map.

If you are going to cultivate in beds, it is advisable to plan mixtures of crops for every five meters of bed.

Decide where you are going to establish your nursery. Make it large enough to include enough extra plants in the event that some don't develop well.

Flowers are important components of the mixture. Zinnia and others attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Marigold repels some pests and controls the nematodes that damage the roots of some crops. Marigold is planted on both sides of the beds at one meter of distance between plants. They are kept cut back to control their size.

Another important aroma to add to the system is that of castor bean, which has excellent repellent qualities. They can be grown at the edge of fields or as a windbreak.



The following image illustrates how you can plan the diversification of the beds using only the names of the crops. However, you can also make drawings.

At the ends of the group of beds you can make arbors for vine crops such as passion fruit or grapes.

To make your diversification plan you can use a drawing so simple that the children could collaborate on the task; getting involved and learning in the process in an entertaining way.



When planning, do not forget to take into account the possible associations of crops that will allow you to make better use of the space and resources of the plot.

