

Engaging Students in Risk Management Assessment in a College Garden

Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga

Professor of Agribusiness

Department of Applied Agricultural and Food Studies



Background

- ❖ 1st year of teaching Risk Management using garden for hands-on.
- ❖ **15 students enrolled in Futures Market and Risk Management Class / Fall 2018**
 - ❖ Nine (9) students from The Department of Applied Agricultural and Food Studies (AAFS).
 - ❖ Six (6) students from Accounting and Business department.
- ❖ Students formed 4 groups
 - ❖ At least one student from both Departments.



Knowledge → Think → Reflect to Make a Difference

Morningside Garden in 2018

Production of
Potatoes,
Herbs
Radish



Harvest time



Produce sent to the college
cafeteria



Bon appetite



Risk Management Assignment using Morningside Garden

The goal of the assignment:

- ❖ Identify pressing risks
 - ❖ **Related to production**
 - ❖ Two (2) groups

 - ❖ **Related to consumption**
 - ❖ Two (2) groups

- ❖ Suggest mitigation strategies

- ❖ Submit an individual reflective summary



Knowledge → Think → Reflect to Make a Difference

Assignment step 1: Knowledge

- ❖ Lecture on Ag Risks in general
- ❖ Library/online search on Risk Management
- ❖ Class presentation by the Garden Coordinator and the Food Services Director



Knowledge → Think → Reflect to Make a Difference

Please Refer to Dr. Paulsen's Presentation

Assignment step 2: Think by spending time at the Garden

Visit the garden

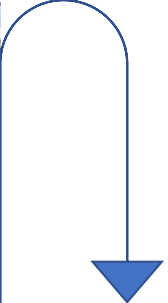


Observe/participate in harvesting



Fun learning

Transporting potatoes to the wash place



Wash place

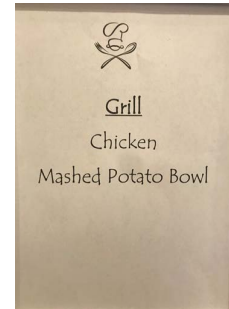
Assignment step 3: Think by spending time at the College Cafeteria

Delivery of garden produce to College cafeteria



Preparing garden potatoes

Lunch or Dinner is served



Knowledge → Think → Reflect to Make a Difference

Risks Identified and Recommended Mitigation Strategies

Risks Identified

Production Risks	Consumption
Pests and Predators	Sanitation
Soil management	Liability

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

Pests and predators Mitigation Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use natural Aromatic herbs such as mint, basil ▪ Avoid holes in garden ▪ Implement regular inspection 	Liability Mitigation Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transfer risk through liability insurance ▪ Additional staff training ▪ Diagrams in the kitchen of proper practices
Soil Management Mitigation Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supply plants with nutrient-rich soil ▪ Water them appropriately 	Sanitation Mitigation Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invest in a hygiene station at the garden location ▪ Additional staff training

Knowledge → Think → Reflect to Make a Difference

Other Problems That Surprised Students

Production

- ❖ Pet control
 - ✓ Neighbor's dog



Mitigation strategies

- ✓ Build fences
- ✓ Have this sign



- ❖ Washing and handling of the produce



- ❖ Build a wash station



Knowledge → Think → Reflect to Make a Difference

Consumption

❖ Lack of consumer knowledge.



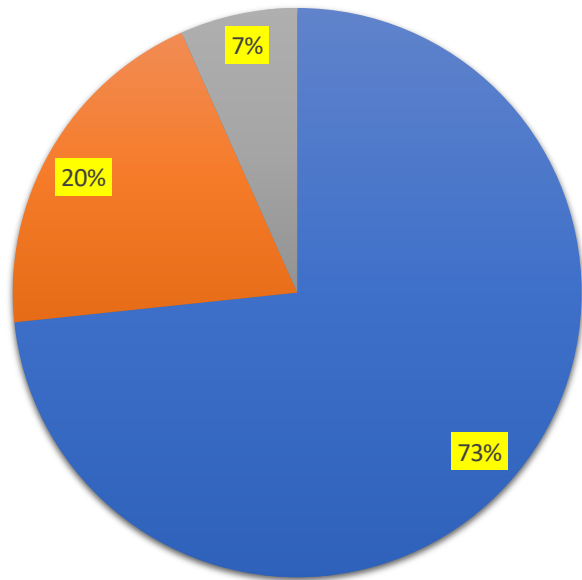
❖ Brand garden produce.



Knowledge → Think → Reflect to Make a Difference

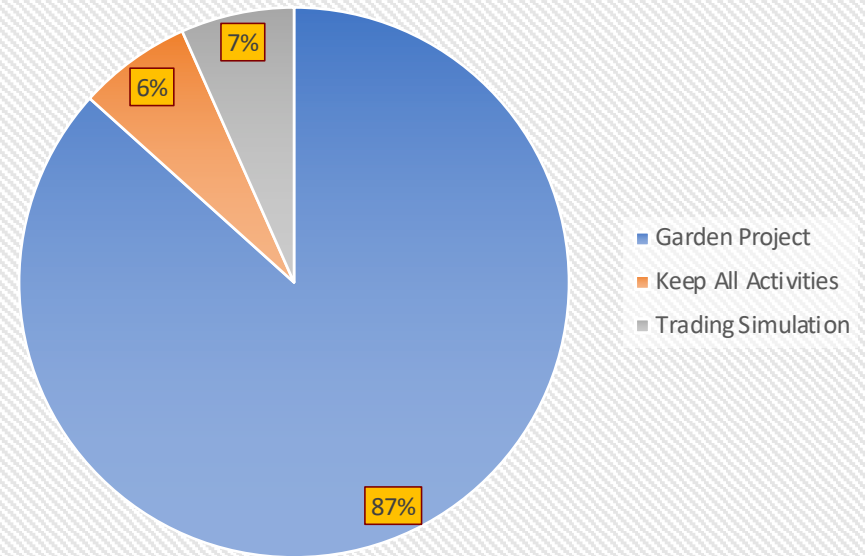
Feedback from Informal Evaluation

Question 1: What was the best part of the class?



■ Assessing Garden risk ■ Learning about Futures markets ■ Others

Question 2: If you were going to teach this class next year, what activity would you definitely keep in class?



■ Garden Project
■ Keep All Activities
■ Trading Simulation

Knowledge → Think → Reflect to Make a Difference

Improvements from Reflective Summary

- ❖ Add an assignment on how to brand garden produce to enhance customer's knowledge (**Marketing Topic for another class**).
- ❖ Give a case study on risk assessment first before starting the garden project.
- ❖ Make every student participate in the harvesting activity.
- ❖ Work with the cafeteria to have students serve food one day in order to promote garden produce.

Knowledge → Think → Reflect to Make a Difference

A decorative footer graphic consisting of two overlapping triangles. The left triangle is dark red and points downwards. The right triangle is grey and points upwards. They meet at a central point, creating a white space in the middle.



Questions?

