

Don Juan Eco-Organic Farm

Located near the city of La Fortuna, the Don Juan Eco-Organic Farm specializes in educating the public on the importance of organic agriculture. The farm itself was built on one hectare (~2.5 acres), where the farm uses ecologically-friendly crops to make homemade juice, lunches, and dinners for visitors. Visitors will make their way through a series of paths, each of which contributes to the makeup of a geometrical shape when viewed from above. Lining the sides of each of these paths are a series of strategically placed plants, adding to the cultivation of ingredients for their restaurant.

The Don Juan Farm specializes in 30 types of plant production; but the main production is cassava, spinach, sugarcane, and various fruits. The originating family had a mission that the farm be maintained to spread knowledge of organic farming techniques. Although the geometric shape of the farm allows for an interesting story, their reasoning for it was very important. Each plant is strategically placed, and lives next to its neighbors to allow each plant to add nutrients to the soil, and work together as an ecosystem to replenish the nutrients that other plants may be utilizing.

Everything at Don Juan's farm has a purpose. Since ending his career as a school principal, Don Juan has spent his days teaching others about organic farming. His methods include using methane-gas produced from the waste from farm animals, composting through worm farms, and bio-fermentation. By using the methane produced as a byproduct from his animals, Don Juan is able to create a constant cycle of energy within his ecosystem. This affords him to use no outside energy, thus nothing goes to waste, eliminating unnecessary inputs that other farms need for production.

Over the years, Don Juan emphasized learning-by-doing on his farm. Employees help cultivate crops and milk cows that provide products for their meals and/or power the farm. He spreads awareness through an enjoyable experience, and hopes to create a fully green agricultural world. Overall, the Don Juan Eco-Organic Farm is a wonderful place to visit for learning about organic food, agricultural systems, and interact with a passionate farm family.

References

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