

Gurteen Agricultural College

Environmental and Sustainable Farming

Level 6 Certification

In association with

Susliving

Module 6

Sustainable Farming and Environmental
Protection Schemes, Biotechnologies

6.1 Soil Testing

Soil testing

Hand soil tests can be carried out at various locations around the college (depending on the number of students involved).

Resources needed :

- ▶ Spade
- ▶ Hand soil test worksheet (see Soil Test Flow Chart)

Points to note :

- ✓ Compare differences in soil structure
- ✓ Explain how soil can be changed / improved
- ✓ Outline the different crops that grow best in different soil types
- ✓ Outline the importance of digging / ploughing
- ✓ Outline the importance of improving the soil
- ✓ Discuss the importance of using compost in the soil when planting
- ✓ Explain where compost comes from (see Compost work sheet)

This would form part of a general farm biodiversity audit.