**Intro to Crop Planning Activity**

**Purpose:** To get participants thinking about crop planning according to their market.

**To Prepare:**

* Print one “plot map worksheet” per participant on 8 ½ x 11 paper that best represents the plot they will grow in. Mark off row feet or square feet.
* Print and ***cutout photos* of popular AND profitable (not necessarily popular) crops**,with their average ***price per square foot or per row foot*** written on them. Make lots of copies of crops that you anticipate being popular. However, if all farmers will be selling through the same market and/or are growing on the same area of land, consider limiting the number of each picture in order to push the conversation about competition and disease.

**Introduce activity:**

“Knowing what you are good at growing and what crops are higher value, each of you will have a chance to identify where 2-4 of your MOST IMPORTANT Market crops will grow on your plot this year and how much of their bed they want to use to grow each crop.”

* **Give all farmers a plot map worksheet**
* ***Give them cutout photos* of crops**
* **Ask farmers to place the pictures of their chosen crops,** or write the name of the crop in their own language or draw a picture of the crop on the worksheet according to where they will plant them, and draw a line or put a perimeter around the bed/row space that each crop will have. They may do this alone or in pairs/small groups. Walk around and help them, as needed.
* **Ask volunteers to share** what they came up with.

**Discussion (choose from the prompts below):**

* How much money will your bed make?
* How much space do you need to grow each crop?
* Should you consider growing more of one thing vs something else?
* Will you have something to do with the produce if you don’t sell it?
* What ideas do others have about this plan? How can this person make more money with these crops?
* How do you think this will help you this season?
* What new concerns do you have about your farm plots or plans for this year?
* What more do you need to know now that you have an idea about what and where to plant it?

Have them hand in their crop maps so that you can hold onto them and pass them out at the next class (diminishes the risk of them being lost)

Ideas for bed maps showing row feet or square feet (or just draw something and make copies!):

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