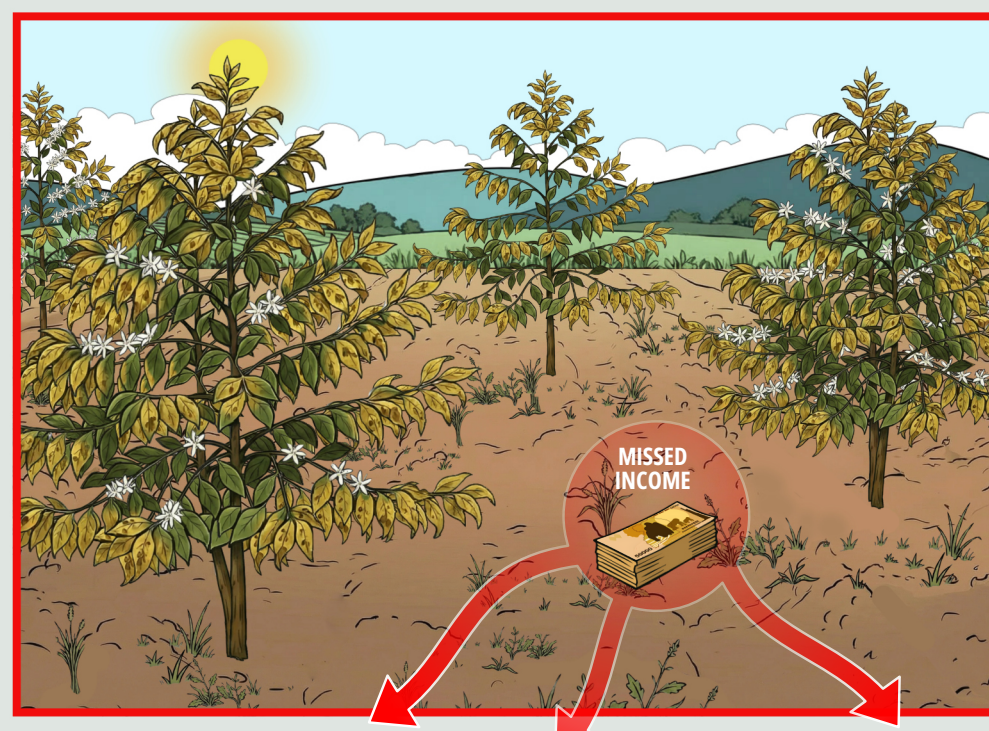


Mulch and Keep Money



If you don't mulch your coffee, it reduces your yields and you lose money.



Facilitator Talking Points

*These should be printed on the back of the laminated poster or as a one-page handout for agents.
They guide a 5–10-minute discussion after showing the visuals.*

1. Open with reflection

- You've seen both farms. What do you notice? Who do you think earned more, and why?
- Draw on local experience: Say, "Can you tell me about what you've observed in your village?"

2. Discuss the benefits of mulching

- Keeps soil moist even during dry spells.
- Adds nutrients and improves soil structure.
- Reduces weeds and saves labor.
- Controls erosion and keeps roots strong.

3. Explore mulching practices

- Common mulch: maize straw, bean haulms, banana leaves, and grass clippings.
- Ask farmers: What is easily available in your area?

4. Demonstrate the proper application of mulching

- Form a loose layer (between 3-6 inches deep).
- Leave a 1-foot space around the coffee stem.
- Replenish after every rainy season.
- Do not heap mulch between trees.

5. Link to missed income:

- Ask: "In this situation, what will the bad farmer lose?"
- What is each farmer going to do next?

Integration Tip: Use the poster together with the *Trenching and Manure Application* posters to show how these three practices complement each other in protecting soil, boosting yield, and increasing income.

Closing comment: "A smart farmer keeps both soil and shillings in the garden. MULCH!"