

Dig Trenches and Protect Your Soil



When your soil is washed away, 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

- What differences did you notice between both farmers' gardens when the rain fell?
- Who do you think harvested more, and why?

2. Discuss the benefits of trenching

- Prevents soil erosion by slowing down rainwater runoff.
- Holds rainwater, keeping the soil moist for longer.
- Improves soil fertility by retaining nutrients.
- Reduces drought effects and increases yields.

3. Explore trenching practices

- Dig trenches along the contour of the slope (using an A-frame, with trench bunds included), not up and down.
- Space trenches depending on slope steepness (closer in steeper areas)
- Where practical, connect trenches to an existing road diversion channel to capture that water in the garden.
- Routinely monitor and remove deposited soil to maintain depth.

4. Demonstrate proper application of trenching:

- Show how to start a contour line using simple tools (A-frame or rope method).
- Use the soil from the trench to make a small ridge on the lower side.
- Integrate with mulching and manure for best results.
- Emphasize teamwork; families or neighbors can dig together before the rains.

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 *Mulching and Manure Application* posters to show how these three practices complement each other in protecting soil, boosting yield, and increasing income.

Closing comment: "When your soil is washed away, you lose money."