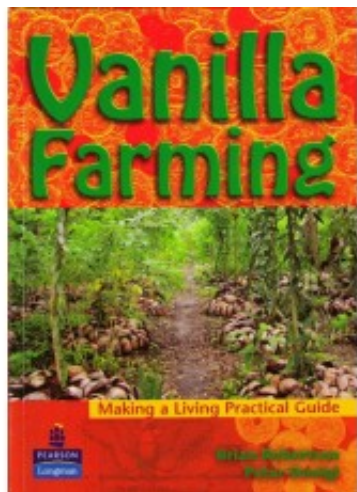


# Making a Living Practical Guide – Vanilla Farming



**Price: \$17.50**

## **Short Description**

This book is a practical guide for upper primary or secondary students on how to make money from vanilla. Whether you live in the highlands or on the coastal plains this book is useful for you. Clear instructions are provided on growing, harvesting and selling vanilla.

## **Description**

Like all the books in this series the main purpose is to let young people know how they can make some money by starting a business that is well within their capability. They are written to be easily understood, provide honest advice and encourage enthusiasm.

Vanilla Farming was written in 2005 when the vanilla price was at its lowest for a long time. Peter Donigi and I were writing it then because a year or so previously the price had been sky high. This is the case with many agricultural products and this book explains reasons for this very carefully in a chapter on risk management. It can be the same for coffee, cocoa and many other farm products to a greater or lesser degree.

It was Peter who provided all the knowledge about how to grow vanilla. He grows vanilla in East Sepik.

This book also explains the biology of the vanilla plant and the different species that are



of this species, particularly the correct way to strain the wine to make it clear, it is made so as that each bottle there to keep in line or barrel. There are no technicals that describe the correct way to make the wine clear. However, each house has its own method, but the factors which are important include the weather, the level of light and the temperature during the day and the night.

### Support tree pruning

Support trees are planted to keep them at the correct height so they produce fruit in a suitable place to support the vines, and to provide the right amount of shade or light.

- Managing the amount of light allows the farmer to grow vines that have growing conditions for as long as possible before making those produce offshoots.
- Strain vines to give offshoots and hanging bunches.
- Some vines are taken with other practices to stimulate flowering.

The first pruning is important because it determines the height of the system. Subsequent pruning will take place at this same level. In addition, pruning will also ensure that all work on the vines, such as pollination and harvesting, is done at a comfortable height for the farmer.

The structure and the layout provide good supporting material for the results vine particularly in

unimproved grounds, if the support tree is a large variety. However, therefore, use the branches with about 10cm and leave them between the support vines. As the leaves fall, they provide nutrients to the vine.

It is important that some of the ground below are covered in some low cover with any part of the vine or the leaves on the trunk will leave the vines to attack the development and health of the vine.

Good knowledge of the weather conditions is a must to good support tree management because support trees are usually fast growing. Generally they will develop some shade within three days of planting.

How often shade trees should be pruned depends on when and how long your particular city system is what sort of rainfall pattern you have in your area and whether your vines get the amount of afternoon sun. Some shade trees should be pruned more often than others that get the morning sun.

Shade trees may not need to be trimmed back at the same time. For example, some might grow more slowly but in a row at one planting and then alternate trees as the need arises.

Knowledge of plant growth, local growing conditions and climate are crucial for farmers who wish to get the best from his or her variety plantation. During the last few years local weather patterns have changed to such an extent that the majority have two and three crops of fruit per year. It seems that there is no longer a definite wet and dry season. This results in reduced

quantity and quality of many of our fruit crops. It also affects yields production.

It is not only how the vine are watered and how they grow in one year that they allow you to have the crop in one year instead of one crop. Instead with the knowledge, it might be possible to manage your vines, field to find one part of your field produce a crop in one year and the other part in the next season. It may be difficult to do this on one vine but it is possible to do this on one vine. This is a very good way to produce fruit if it is not recommended for 2 plantings.

Some pruning of support trees should be done before the fruit is harvested to help with fruit maturing and to encourage better fruit formation of the next crop.

### Stressing the vine to encourage flowering

Stressing to encourage flowering only applies to the following 4 situations: (1) vines that have been stressed. Following pruning of the support trees, the vines are this stressed for 2-3 weeks in the first year, usually during winter to encourage flowering. This is done at the end of the vine attached below the rest of the vines.

There are several ways of stressing the plant and each farmer has his or her own method. Many farmers are reluctant to share this information with others, but will also report that this method is the best and

produces most vines flowering fruit. There are three watering methods outlined below, but no guarantee is given as to which method is best suitable. In a similar manner you should be prepared to experiment to find which method, or what combination of them, will best suit the vines growing in your field and subject to the weather conditions in your area.

### Cutting off the end of the vine

Cutting off the end of the vine, as described above under the section, *Vine pruning techniques: bushy and maintenance*, should give the farmer some idea of how to stress the vine. However, it could result in the growth of more offshoots that will be the part before the right leaf from the end of the vine. Check the vine at this point to make sure that it is hard and not soft as it is just behind the terminal bud. This is the same method used when the farmer is preparing his younger vines to stimulate the growth of offshoots. However, if there are already plenty of offshoots, farmer should develop them to look in the area of the leaves.

### Making a hole in the vine

There are many ways of making a hole in the vine, such as using a sharp knife to cut a hole into the vine, making a hole in the vine and then stimulate the growth of one these branches. Some farmers make the