

## **TREE PLANTING** **(Field Exercise)**

### **Layout**

- Consider goals of tree planting – reforestation, food crop, windbreak, shade, etc.
- Consider environmental factors – soil, climate, aspect, etc.
- Consider the needs and optimal conditions for the trees to be planted.

### **Planting**

- Bare root trees
  - Dig hole – should be deeper and wider than roots
  - Trim off any broken roots
  - Place roots in hole. Ensure that tree is straight. Slowly fill the hole and gently tamp the soil in around the roots.
  - Depth of planting depends. Generally, in climates with a long wet season, the tree should be planted high – not in a basin – to ensure that the roots do not drown. A basin around the tree is helpful to capture and concentrate rainfall around the root zone, if the rain comes gradually over the course of the year.
- Potted trees
  - Dig hole – slightly bigger than the pot
  - Remove tree from pot, and massage the potting soil so as to break compaction and offset any root binding.
  - Place tree and soil into hole, slowly backfill with native soil around the potting soil, gently tamp.
  - Depth depends – see above.

### **Irrigation**

- Discuss need for irrigation based on site specifics.
- Demonstrate proper installation of drip irrigation.

### **Mulching**

- Discuss pros and cons.
  - Pros – smothers weeds, conserves water, attracts earthworms.
  - Cons – attracts mice, moles, and gophers.
- Demonstrate using straw or cardboard, or both.

