

Cucumber – The Promising Crop

Mr. Murugayan of North Poigaynallur of, Nagapattinam is mapping 120 baskets from 1 acre using chemical fertilizers. Whereas, Mr. Arumugam from Gramathimedu is reaping about 180 baskets from 1 acre using organic methods.

Production Technologies:

Harvesting should be completed by June – July. Cucumber grows well in salt less soil. It should be sown in January. The crop duration is 120 days. The soil should be ploughed 4 times with tractor and 1 time with country plough. Pits of size 1 x 1 x 1feet at a spacing of 8 feet should be taken. The pits should be applied with ½ basket of FYM and 15gm of D x P. 10 seeds should be sowed at 211 depths in the centre of pit. It germinates by 3 days, irrigate once in 2 days for the first 10 days in the morning. Apply ½ kg FYM, DAP 50g, Urea 50g and Potash 50gm on 20th and 40th day. The soil around the plants should be dug out.

120 baskets in 120 days:

Dig basins of ½ feet depth around the roots and irrigate in the morning. On the 25th, 40th and 60th days apply 25ml pesticides, 13ml of growth promoters by mixing with 13litre of water reduces the green caterpillar flowering starts by 30th day. On the 45th day it is ready for harvest.

Harvesting can be done from 45 to 110 days. The harvest per day is 2 baskets of 20 – 25kg each. The price of 1 basket is Rs.200 – 300. Care should be taken to harvest daily as price is reduced for over matured cucumbers.

The matured cucumber is left for seed production. It earns Rs.10/fruit.

Organic production of Cucumber:

The seeds should be treated with Azospirillum (100gm) and Tricoderma viridi (100g) mixed with rice kanji. It should be dried in shade for ½ an hour before sowing. Each pit is sowed with 7 seeds. Irrigation should be done every day in the morning hours for the first 10days. Apply ½ kg FYM on 15 – 20th day. Apply ½ litres of garlic solution along with organic pesticide after weekly once 20th day. Alternate these solutions over the week. During irrigation, (once in 4 – 7 days) mix 10litres of Jeevamirdha solution for application in 1 acre.

Mix ½ litres of Panchakavya in 1 tank of water and spray it once in 10 days after the 30th day. The crop flower on 25th day and is ready for harvest on the 35th day. The harvest per day is 3 – 4 baskets from 1 acre. The total yield is 180 baskets from 60 days.

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Economics of Cucumber Production in 1 Acre:

S.No	Particulars	Inorganic production		Organic production	
		Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income
1.	Ploughing	650		650	
2.	Seed	150		150	
3.	FYM	1500		2000	
4.	Fertilizer	1000		-	

5.	Pesticide + Growth promoter	750		-	
6.	Organic inputs	-		500	
7.	Soil loosening	3200		3200	
8.	Irrigation	2000		2000	
9.	Pit formation	400		400	
10.	Harvesting	1000		1200	
11.	Sale of cucumber (120 baskets@ Rs.200/basket) (180 baskets@ Rs.200/basket)		24,000		36,000
	Total	10,640	24,000	10,100	36,000
	Net profit		13,350		25,900

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