

## Precision farming – An experience in Tomato Production

I am practicing precision farming in 2.5 acres for the past four years. I would like to share the experience I have gained through tomato cultivation.

**Nursery Preparation:** Firstly I have selected U.S.618 tomato variety for cultivation in my own land being 100 portrays provided by the TNAU. The portrays were filled with cocoa peat, and one seed was place in each pit. Then the portrays were arranged one over the other with 10 in one pile and covered with tarpolene inorder to avoid aeration. After three days the covering was removed and the portrays were place separately in shade. Watering was done by using rose cane both in morning & evening regularly. The seedling were ready for transplantation in twenty days.

**Land Preparation :** Primary village with 5 ploughs for 3 times were done. Farmyard Manure@ 4+ and poultry Manure@ 2t were applied incorporation & Manure was done. Bed size & 4 feet breadth were formed and drip laterals were set and for irrigation was done for 10 hours. When the beds were fully wet, planting was done with a spacing of 60 x 60 cm. Irrigation was alone for 1 hour and 15mls daily and **federation** on every 3rd day with 19-19-19, 13-00-45, and 12-61-00 and urea was given. Weeding was done after 20th and 40th day. After first weeding 8kg of ferodan was done by earthling up. During second weeding 100kg of Neam cake was applied. Staking of tomato and timely pesticide application was done. The crop was ready for harvest on 70th day.

**Harvest:** The harvested produce were graded and marketed in M.G.R.Market, Coimbatore. About 1600 kg(40t) of tomato was sold @ Rs.320-550/25kg of produce.

### Economics:

<b>Expenditure:</b> Land Preparation	-	Rs.2,000
Fym	-	Rs.4,000
Bed formation	-	Rs.3,250
Fertilizer	-	Rs.25,000
Particides	-	Rs.10,250
Labour cost	-	Rs.26,000
Rope	-	Rs.5,000
Stalks, & wires	-	Rs.8,000

Other labour cost	-	Rs.7,500
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Total	-	Rs.91,000
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<b>Income:</b> First & second quality 1600 kg	-	Rs.4,51,000
Expenditure	-	Rs. 91,000
Net income	-	Rs. 3,60,000

**Specialties:** The specialties of the precision farming includes, friability of soil and better aeration and sunlight penetration in the crop canopy enhances the crop growth, at the same time weed growth is less due to spot application of fertilizer in root zone. Even In the widst of adverse climate, crop production can be done with precision farming technologies.

Hence, I request the farmers so adopt the precision farming technologies so gain more yield and income. I sincerely thank the scientist & Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for introducing the precision farming technology.

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