

Vegetable crops suitable for polyhouse cultivation

1) Tomato: Tomato requires relatively cool, dry climate for high yield and premium quality. Both lower as well as higher temperature damage the fruits and thus reduces the marketability. This problem can be overcome with a controlled climatic condition in a protected cultivation

2) Cucumber: Low cost naturally ventilated polyhouse is the most suitable and economical one for the year-round production of cucumber

3) Capsicum: It is the most extensively grown vegetable under polyhouse and gives high returns

4) Brinjal

5) Cabbage

6) Bittergourd

7) Coriander etc.

Points to be considered before selecting the polyhouse site

1) Soil pH should be between 5.5 to 6.5 and EC 3 to 5 dS/m

2) Continuous availability of quality water

3) The irrigation water samples should have pH ranging from 5.5 to 7.5 and EC from 1 to 3 dS/m

4) The selected site should be pollution free

5) There should be roads or sea ports for transportation and shipping of produce to the markets

6) The place should be large enough for the upcoming expansion

7) Labourers must be easily available

8) There should be excellent communication facilities associated with that place

9) Soil should have good drainage facility

Cost involved in polyhouse construction

Polyhouse construction cost is around Rs700-Rs1000 per sq.m. The cost depends on some factors like the quality of material, size, shape, transportation and polyhouse structure. Therefore, polyhouse construction cost for 1000sq.m approximates to around **Rs40-Rs60 lakh** including other miscellaneous costs.

Subsidies for polyhouse cultivation

- The state government provides a subsidy of 75% to construct a polyhouse in a 400-4000sq.m area
- There are two types of subsidies available for polyhouse
 - a) **National Horticulture Board-** A client can get a subsidy of 50% on the total project cost which includes polyhouse construction, drip irrigation, bed preparation material and labour cost, planting material costs etc
 - b) **National Horticulture Mission-** A client can get 50% subsidy only on polyhouse construction and drip irrigation according to the rates decided by the particular State Horticulture Division

Loans offered by different banks

Many banks are interested in providing horticulture loans to farmers. To acquire a loan for polyhouse one has to create a polyhouse cultivation report with the help of the chartered accountant or any agency and present it to the bank for availing a loan. Bank provide loan with an interest of 12%-14% for 5-7year period.

List of banks providing horticulture loans

- State Bank of India
- Bank of Baroda
- Bank of India
- Maharashtra bank
- IDBI bank

References-

- Model Bankable Project on Hi-Tech agriculture published by NABARD (Kerala Regional Office, Trivandrum)
- Protected cultivation of vegetable crops (Book)- Amit Kumar, Sachin Tyagi and Neeraj Kumar