

Cultivation practice & plant protection

The most important considerations in crop cultivation are proper land preparation, use of optimum seed rate with timely sowing, manuring, watering etc. Additionally, you need to control pests and diseases.

Weed control: Two types of weed control measures are available: manual weeding 2-3 times depending on weed situation and or use of chemical weed control/herbicide. Choice depends on farmer and resources. For hand weeding, first weeding to be carried out when crop is 14-21 days old. Second weeding is carried out when crop is 35-42 days old and for higher duration crops, weeding is recommended in 60-75th day and 90-110th day.

Soaking the seeds: Hard seed coats can be permeable to water there by increasing enzymatic activity inside the seeds. It breaks seed dormancy and it germinates. It is not necessary in all type of seeds. It is usually practiced in case of leguminous and cucurbitaceous seeds. To start the production, you will need pure seeds in-order to replicate the same. This step also weeds out the undeveloped seeds. Another main important purpose of this step is to remove the seeds which are damaged by pests. It is very important to remove these seeds since they are capable of making other seeds inactive due to their spoiled state.

Irrigation: Proper amount of water should be given to the plants. Water stress may affect the crop there by seed quality and quantity.

Manuring: It is different for different crops. For each crop there will be recommended manures and that should be applied at the time. Organic manures and chemical fertilizers can be used for this purpose.

Plant protection measures: Plant protection chemicals such as insecticides and fungicides can be used safely in the recommended amount there by protecting the crop from any kind of pest and disease incidence. Biocontrol methods are also useful to controlling those.

Maturity, Harvesting & processing

You must harvest the seed at the proper stage of maturity and only after permission is granted by the field inspector. After primary threshing and drying, you need to seal the bag of raw seeds with the permission of certification agency.

Finally, the seeds need proper processing. Generally, seed lot accepted for processing is processed at the seed draws three samples. One sample is for seed testing laboratory for testing purpose, one sample kept at his disposal and one sample for concerned seed producer. After getting the positive report from the seed testing laboratory, you need to pack the processed and treated seed. Additionally, you need to attach the appropriate tags issued by seed certification officer