

Welcome Lablab

Lablab is one such crop that yields profits, without much investment and hard work. Hence farmers grow this crop without any debts. Mr.Kaliyaperumal of kathumala padukai village, Thanjavur district, explains about the cultivation of Lablab in his field.

Usually lablab is grown in 10 cents. The seeds are sown in June –July to harvest in December – January. The crop duration is 5 ½ months, hence it is not cultivated in larger areas. Lablab can be intercropped with castor with black gram , sorghum and castor to get higher income. Lablab climbs over the sorghum and hence the cost of pandal establishment is reduced. If intercropped with castor the problem of pests can be overcome. This type of intercropping is suitable for the season, as the climate needs to be dry during the three months. Black gram comes to harvest before the rains at October - November; After which sorghum also can be harvested. Only the ear heads are harvested as sorghum stalks acts as support for the lablab. After the north east showers, lablab and sorghum come to harvest. The major yield is from lablab says Kaliyaperumal. He continues to speak about the cultivation practices.

First: Black gram

Lablab comes out well in all types of soil but it is essential that there is good drainage. The soil should be dug out and applied with 1 ½ tonnes of FYM for 10 cents. Half kg of black gram should be broadcasted and the soil should be pushed using coconut fronds so that the seeds are not exposed

Second : sorghum :

Based on the land type, form, channels and furrows are formed at a distance of 6 feet. Sorghum seeds (2 No) should be sown at a depth of 1 inch and a distance of 2 inch.

Third : lablab :

2 Lablab seeds should be sowed in between the sorghum seeds leaving a spacing of 4 fingers in between the sorghum seeds. The seeds should be placed at 1 inch depth. The seed requirement for 10 cents of land is ½ kg sorghum and 1 kg lablab.

Fourth : Castor:

Castor seeds are sowed on the border of the field at a spacing of 4 feet and a depth of 1 inch. It should be irrigated immediately after sowing. All the seeds germinate within a week. Weeding should be done on the 15th day. Irrigation should not be done immediately as weeds will grow again. Irrigate after 20 days to prevent this. Later irrigation should be done once in 10 Days. But during earhead formation stage in sorghum , irrigation should be once in 5 days. During each irrigation fertigate with 5 litres of Amutha Karaisal.

Harvest : Black gram on 70th day : Sorghum on 80th day. Black gram comes to harvest on the 70th day after sowing. Black gram should be uprooted and dried in 3 days. It should be beaten up with stick to separate the grams. The yield from 10 cents will be 20kg of black gram. Sorghum earhead can be harvested on the 80th day of sowing. The yields will be 350 ear heads from 10 cents. A lablab crop grows upto 8 feet long. It can be harvested from December last on January starting. It is harvested once in 5 days. The yield will be 75 kg/ harvest. The total yield comes to 475kg. the unpeeled vegetables will be priced between Rs.25-30/kg. If the harvest is delayed, then the grams are sold at the rate of Rs.30 /kg. The system of intercropping in 10 cents can be carried out without any additional labour and hence the profit is high says Kaliyaperumal.

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Integrated farming in 10 cents – Lablab, black gram, Sorghum, Castor – Economics of production (Rs)			
S. No	Particulars	Expenditure	Income
1.	Land preparation – digging out	110	
2.	FYM ½ tonnes	200	
3.	Channels & Furrows	50	
4.	Lablab seeds 1kg	40	
5.	Sorghum seeds ½ kg	25	
6.	Castor seeds ½ kg	25	
7.	Sowing charges	150	
8.	Irrigation	300	
9.	weeding	50	
10.	20 kg Black gram * Rs. 30		600
11.	5 kg Castor * Rs.25		125
12.	Sorghum, Castor – Harvesting charges	75	
13.	Lablab : Rs.25 * 475 kg		11,875
14.	Lablab : Rs.20 * 250 kg		5,000
15.	Lablab seeds Rs.30 * 30 kg		900
16.	Harvesting charge for lablab	650	
17.	Transportation	150	
18.	Total	1900	18,850
	Net profit		16,950

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