

TURMERIC PRODUCTION GUIDE

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is native to the monsoon forests of South East Asia. It is a perennial herb with underground rhizomes. It belongs to the same family as ginger (*Zingiberaceae*) and grows in the same hot and humid tropical climate. The rhizome is a deep bright yellow colour and similar from to ginger but slightly smaller. It produces tall, very beautiful, white flower spikes.

HEALTH BENEFITS AND USES

Turmeric has a vast variety of medicinal uses. In traditional medicine, it used to treat liver ailments, ulcers, parasitic infections, skin problems, bruises, joint pain and inflammation sprains, cold and flu symptoms, as well as a general digestive aid. Curry powder comprises 25% of tumeric and it is used to give it a yellow colour.



HOW TO PLANT TURMERIC:

CLIMATE AND SOIL

Turmeric can be grown in diverse tropical conditions from sea level to 1500m above sea level; at a temperature range of 20-35°C with an annual rainfall of 1500 mm or more, under rainfall or irrigated conditions. It can be grown on different soils, but thrives best in well-drained sandy or clay loam soils with a pH range of 4.5-7.5 with good organic status.

PREPARATION OF LAND

The land is prepared with the onset of early rain. The soil is brought to a fine tilth by giving it about two deep ploughings. Raised vegetable planting beds of about 15cm height with at least 50cm spacing between beds should be constructed. Turmeric can be planted between April-May with a spacing of 25cm x 30cm (133,333 plants/hectare).

SEED MATERIAL

Whole or split mother are used for planting. Well developed healthy and disease free rhizomes are to be selected as seed materials.

MANURING AND FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Farm yard manure or compost is applied at 30-40t/ha is applied by broadcasting and ploughed at the time of preparation of land or as basal dressing by spreading over the beds at the time of planting. Fertilizers are applied at 60kgN, 50kg P₂O₅ and 120kg K₂O per hectare in split doses.

MULCHING

The crop is to be mulched immediately after planting with green leaves at 12-15t/ha. It can be repeated at 7.5t/ha at 45 and 90 days after planting respectively.

MIXED CROPPING

Turmeric can be grown as an intercrop in coconut plantations. It can also be raised as a mixed crop with onion and cereals like corn, millet etc.

HARVESTING AND YIELD

Turmeric readiness for harvest is indicated by the drying of the plant and stem approximately 7 to 10 months after planting depending on cultivar, soil and growing conditions. The rhizome bunches are carefully dug out manually with a garden forks or the soil is first loosen with a small garden trowels and clumps manually lifted. It is better to cut the leaves before lifting the rhizomes. Harvested rhizomes are further cured and processed, or stored for the next year's planting.

YIELD

The average yield per hectare ranges from 20-25t/ha.

STORAGE OF SEED RHIZOMES

Rhizomes for seed purpose are generally stored after heaping under shade and covered with turmeric leaves.

NOTE: Feasibility report on Turmeric production is available on request.

For further information, contact

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