



# BETTER OKRA MORE MONEY

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES  
FOR IMPROVED OKRA

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## LAND PREPARATION

- Clear trees and root stumps from land.
- Apply Glyphosate to control both perennials and weeds, wait for 10-14 days before tilling.
- Till soil properly.
- Prepare ridges and furrows spaced 60cm apart.
- The soil should be rich and free of diseases and insect pests. Add well decomposed manure (20 MT/ha) to improve the soil quality.

## SEED PREPARATION

Soak seeds for 24 hours in water or 30 mins in ethyl alcohol and acetone.

## BED TREATMENT

It is usual to treat the soil mixture with fumigant to kill pests, fungi, weeds, etc. in the soil.

- A mixture of Carbendazim and Mancozeb is recommended at the rate of 1kg to 16 litres of water or a mixture of 8g of 250g/kg Thia methoxam plus 50g of mancozeb and mefenoxam
- When used, wet soil very well and cover with palm fronds.
- Do not sow seeds until after 9–10 days after treatment. In the absence of fumigants, apply heat treatment by burning trash on the beds and removing the ash

## SOWING

- Sow directly into moist soil at 20-40 cm within rows and 60-90 cm between rows at a depth of 2-5 cm. after germination, reduce to one plant per stand.
- The average seed rate is 3-5 kg/ha depending on variety and seed viability.

## WATERING

Water the seedlings every morning. Generally watering should be moderate

## FERTILISER APPLICATION

- As a general rule, apply NPK 15-15-15 at 220 kg/ha at planting. During flowering apply 110-150 kg/ha of Sulphate of Ammonia or 75 kg of Urea.
- Foliar fertilizer that acts as supplements can be applied at 250mls into 16 litres of water once a week. This helps the plant to grow very well and results in greater yield.

**“SOAK SEEDS FOR 24 HOURS IN WATER”**

## INSECT PEST CONTROL

As with all crops:

- Control pest and diseases in the field at the first sight of occurrence.
- Use Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5EC and Cypermethrin 5EC insecticides at the rate of 3-4L/ha at first every two weeks and later every week at the rate of 250mls for 16ltrs of water in a knapsack.
- Remove and destroy affected plants.
- Note also that the foliar fertilizer can be used with all forms of insecticides and can be mixed in the same sprayer before spraying. Make sure you stop spraying insecticide as recommended by the manufacturer before harvesting.

## HARVEST

Harvest pods while still tender, usually, 5-6 days after flower opening.

- Okra should be harvested 2-3 times every week. Regular picking increases yield.
- Cut or snap pods from the plant in the cooler parts of the day.
- Pods should be kept in a cool place.
- Harvested okra should be handled carefully to avoid bruising.
- Bruised pods will turn black or brown within a few hours.

Okra harvesters should always wear cotton gloves when harvesting and handling pods to minimize bruising.

**“CONTROL PEST AND DISEASES IN THE FIELD AT THE FIRST SIGHT OF OCCURRENCE. “**