

“TULSI”

Commercial Cultivation & Contract Farming

MOTHER MEDICINE OF NATURE



INTRODUCTION

Tulsi plant is of religious and medicinal importance in India. Its botanical name is *Ocimum Sanctum* and it is known as Tulsi in Hindi, Sulabha, Gramya, Bahubhanjari in Sanskrit and Holy Basil in English. More than 150 species of this plant of Lamiaceae family are found in the world, whose basic nature and properties are similar.



DOMINANT SPECIES

1) Camphor Tulsi (*Ocimum klimendscharicum*)- This is an American species of basil, which is originated in America. Its leaves are used to make aromatic tea. Its plant is used to make camphor. The length of its plants is about two to three feet, the leaves are green and the flowers are purple-brown.

2) Rama Tulsi (*O. basilicum*)- This variety has been developed for growing in warm climates. It is grown in the southern states of India. The length of the plants is found to be two to three feet. The color of the leaves is light green and the flowers are completely white. The plant is less fragrant and it is mainly used to make medicines.

3) Shyam or Krishna Tulsi (*O. sanctum Linn.*)- Shyam or Krishna Tulsi is also called as Kali Tulsi. The color of the leaves of this variety is light purple and the flowers are light purple in color. Its plants are three feet tall and leaves are used as remedy for cough.

4) Babai Tulsi (*O. americanum Linn.*)- This variety of basil is used to make the vegetable curry aromatic. Its plants are two feet tall, leaves are of normal size. In India, it is grown in the states of Bengal and Bihar.

5) Amrita Tulsi (*O. gratissimum Linn*)- This variety of Tulsi is grown all over India. Its plants produce more branches, and the emerging leaves have a purple hue. This particular variety of Tulsi is used to treat rheumatism, diabetes, heart disease, lunacy, and cancer.

MEDICINAL USES

Tulsi is a plant of immense medicinal use, which has importance in both old medical system and modern medical system. Tulsi plants have strong disease resistance power. By consuming it one can get relief from cold, fever, cough, respiratory diseases and dental diseases. At present, many cough medicines, soaps, hair shampoos etc. are being made from it. Tulsi is in high demand in companies manufacturing cosmetic products and medicines. Due to which the demand for Tulsi products has increased significantly, so farmers can earn good profit in less time by cultivating Tulsi. Fulfillment of demand is not possible without farming. If you also want to cultivate Tulsi, then in this article you are being provided information related to how to cultivate Tulsi and where to sell it and the price of Tulsi.



AGE OF PLANT

Tulsi cultivation usually lasts for one year in which its leaves are harvested at an interval of 3 months. Tulsi is harvested four times in a year. Which also contains leaves and flowers (Manjiri).

CLIMATE AND SOIL

For its cultivation, less fertile land which has proper drainage system, such soil is good, sandy loam land is very suitable for it. Both tropical and subtropical climates are suitable for this.

FIELD PREPARATION AND FERTILIZERS

A fully grown Tulsi plant gives yield for 1 year. For this the field should be prepared well. First of all, the field should be deeply plowed. After ploughing, incorporate farm yard manure in the field and mix it well with rotavator. Irrigate the field immediately. When the soil starts appearing dry on top, then make the soil of the field crumbly by running the rotavator.



SEED

For basil cultivation 5-6 kg seeds per acre are required. Due to the small size of basil seeds, while broadcasting them in the soil, mix granular fertilizer (for ex: DAP) or sand with seeds in it in the ratio of 1:2. Example- If basil seeds are 1 kg then mix 2 kg of granular fertilizer or sand.

SOWING METHOD AND TECHNIQUE

Direct seed sowing is the preferred method for Tulsi cultivation, as it is economical, easy to adopt, and ensures uniform crop establishment. Tulsi can be sown using either of the following methods:

1. **Line Sowing with Tractor Seed Drill (Recommended):** Seeds are sown in rows using a tractor-operated seed sowing machine, which ensures uniform seed placement, proper plant spacing, easier intercultural operations, and better crop management. Click-N-Grow Agroventures Pvt. Ltd. strongly recommends this method for Tulsi cultivation intended for dry leaf production, as it results in better leaf quality, easier harvesting, and higher marketable yield.
2. **Broadcasting Method:** Seeds are broadcast manually by uniformly scattering them over the prepared field by hand. This method produces a dense crop stand and is preferred for Panchang (whole plant) production or essential oil extraction, where uniform row spacing is not essential.



IRRIGATION

The first irrigation is done immediately after planting. To maintain moisture in the basil field, irrigation should be done at an interval of 4 to 5 days. Tulsi plants require 10 to 12 irrigations in a year. During the rainy season, plants are irrigated at an interval of 15 to 20 days.

WEED CONTROL

Basil is cultivated for medicinal purpose, hence chemicals should not be used for weed control. The first weeding is done one and a half months after transplantation. The second and third weeding of plants should be done within a month of the first weeding.



PLANT PROTECTION AND DISEASE CONTROL

- **Leaf-Wrapped Caterpillar:** This caterpillar feeds on leaves, buds and whole crop. It attacks the surface of the leaves and twists them.
- **Basil leaf bug:** They feed on the leaves and leave their excreta which is very harmful to the leaves. Initially the leaves curl and dry up.
- **Leaf spot:** This disease is like powdery mildew that affects the leaves and plants.
- **Blight of plants:** It is a fungal disease that destroys seeds and young plants.
- **Root rot:** Due to poor drainage, the roots of this plant rot. Use phytosanitary measures for its control.



HARVESTING

When the plant has completely blossomed and the lower leaves start turning yellow, it should be harvested. It is ready for harvesting after 10-12 weeks of transplantation. It is harvested completely at the time of flowering. Harvest by cutting the branches keeping 15 cm plant above the ground so that plants could be regrown. Its fresh leaves are dried in the sun for further use. Normally, four harvesting can be taken from Tulsi plant in one year.



TOTAL COST PER ACRE- 1 YEAR

Particulars	Work	Expenses
Land Preparation	Ploughing, Leveling	4,000
Organic Fertilizers	Organic insecticides, Growth boosters, etc.	5,000
Planting material/ seeds	5 kg @ Rs.1000/- per kg	5,000
Weeding	Removing weed manually	4,000
Harvesting	Cutting of branches and Drying	5,000
Other Expenses	Irrigation, transport etc.	10,000
Total expenditure (1 year)		33,000/-

TOTAL INCOME PER ACRE- 1 YEAR

Production	Buy-Back Price	Total Income
Dry Leaves: 2000 Kg (4 harvests in a year)	Rs.50/- per kg	Rs.100,000/-
Seeds: 100 Kg	Rs.400 per kg	Rs.40,000/-
Total Output		Rs.140,000/-
Total Expenditure (1 year)		Rs.33,000/-
Net Income/ Profit (1 year)		Rs.107,000/-



IMPORTANT NOTE:

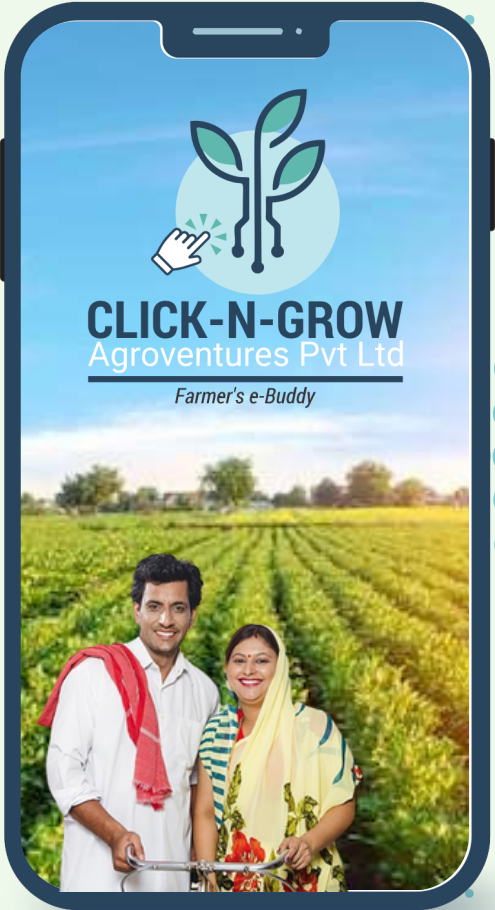
1. The per acre cost of cultivation and expected output mentioned in the table above are approximate values derived from our practical experience and supported by data from select top government institutions. These figures are provided for reference and understanding. Please note that actual output may vary based on several factors such as season, geographical location, climatic conditions, soil fertility, and crop management practices.

2. For specific crops, we recommend the use of mulching sheets and drip irrigation systems for the cultivation of this crop. These practices help conserve water and reduce weeding costs. While it is possible to achieve good production without using mulching and drip irrigation, the cost of weeding will likely increase considerably. In such cases, farmers may opt for mechanical methods to manage weeds. A standard estimate for weeding cost has already been included in the calculations, but it may vary depending on the season and local conditions.



CROP CULTIVATION GUIDE

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