

SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) News No. 29.1 : Technical guideline for cultivation of mustard green group

1. General description:

The mustard green group includes big leaf mustard, flowering edible rape, pak choy, yu choy, turnip mustard. These are easy to cultivate, quick to harvest and can be adapted to various soil conditions except acidic soil. This group requires enough watering but does not get waterlogged in order to achieve high productivity.



2. Planting season:

The mustard green group can be grown all year round. Normal planting season begins in Dec. or Jan. Planting during this season will lead to high productivity, but plants are likely to suffer from pest attacks. During the rainy season, mustard green group may die due to rain, storm or flood. However, the prices of vegetables in rainy season are usually higher than those during other seasons.



3. Tillage, fertilizing and seeding:

Normally farmers prepare a bed with 120-150 cm of width, 10-15cm of height. For summer season or whenever plants may get waterlogged, it is good to make a bed higher to prevent them from being damaged by flooding. Basal application needs 1.5-2 kg of composted manure, 100 g of ash for 1 m². When applied, spread fertilizer and ash on the bed surface, get hoes stir and mix them deep into the bed, flatten the bed surface and sprinkle seeds on the bed surface; the amount of seeds is 5-6g/1m².

4. Planting and tending:

In the winter – spring season, when the seedlings are 15-20 days age, pull up seedlings and transplant them with distance of 15 – 20 cm

Tending and harvesting: the farmers have to regularly water, provide fertilizer, take pest and diseases prevention measures for mustard green. If they are lack of fertilizer and water, or suffer from pest and diseases, the yield will be very low or even no harvest. In order to realize good growth and get high productivity, the farmer should apply additional fertilizer by using diluted liquefied fertilizer from biogas plants with ratio of 1:4, 2 times per week. Stop irrigating diluted liquefied fertilizer 7 to 10 days before harvesting.

4. Pest and disease control:

The farmers should apply IPM measures to achieve high efficiency in vegetable cultivation activities by field cleaning, nylon cover, and crop rotation with other plants; catching pest every day. In addition, they should apply biology measures: using natural enemies such as spiders, lady bugs...

During the rainy season, it should be planted in the green house to increase disease resistance.

5. Harvesting:

Harvesting time at the age of 25 – 30 days



Taro caterpillar



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