

No cost pandal

Pandal system is used to support bitter gourd, ribbed gourd, snake gourd and lablab. But Mr. Selvaraj of Periyakammalpatti, Sulur Block, Coimbatore is cultivating gourds on harvested and dried crops. Usually pandal is made of stone pillars, which is very costly. Because of this reason most of the farmers do not practice this cultivation. Mr. Selvaraj new system is cost effective.

Money yielding bitter gourd :

Mr. Selvaraj has 2 ½ acres of land with well irrigation. Also it is supplied with canal irrigation from Parambikulam Aliyar Project (PAP) for 9 months. The farmers of his area have planted coconut as they have no water scarcity. He has also planted coconut trees, 3 years back. It was intercropped with chillies, onion, brinjal, beetroot and bhendi. He later comes to know from a trader that bitter gourd can yield better profit than these crops. But he was reluctant because of the cost for establishing pandal in his coconut farm.

Coconut intercropped with chillies :He struck with the idea of growing bitter gourd on chillies while he saw one bitter gourd plant trailing over a brinjal.In between the 3 years coconut trees, he cultivated chillies in one acre. At the harvesting stage he sowed bitter gourd in the same field and allowed it to trail over the chilli plants.

350gm seed for 1 acre :

Chillies should be cultivated using the normal package of practices in the month of June. Harvesting of chillies can be done from July – August to January. At the close of harvesting season, do one wedding and sow bitter gourd seeds in the furrows such that it gets plenty of sunlight. Approximately 350gm of seed is required for 1acre, Life irrigation should be given immediately after sowing, Later irrigation should be given once in 5 days. 15 days later the plant grows up. At this time it should be supported on the chilli plant.

Additional fertilizer not required :

During flowering and fruit settling stage, groundnut cake (soaked in water for 1 day) should be mixed with irrigation water. Side branches should pinched back in 50 days. 60 days after, plants come to harvest. The ground becomes porous and leases more micronutrients due to the application pf groundnut cake. Sucking pests should be controlled by applying pesticides in two rounds.

100kg per day :

In stone pandal type, fruits came to harvest in 90 days whereas in this type it takes only 60 days. But the labour charge for harvesting is a bit high as they have to be harvested by bending a little. Harvesting is fullfledged in April – May. He gets 100kg / day from his 1 acre land. A total of 6 tonnes can be obtained from the crop. The size of the fruit and yield lesser than obtained in pandal type. However the cost and duration is reduced.

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Comparison of cost of cultivation :

		Natural pandal		Stone pandal	
S.No	particulars	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income

1.	Farm yard Manure	-	-	1500	-
2.	Ridges & furrow	-	-	500	-
3.	Seeds (350g)	1440	-	2300	-
4.	Sowing cost	200	-	200	-
5.	Groundnut cake (50kg)	1200	-	-	-
6.	Weeding	500	-	1000	-
7.	Trailing charges	-	-	500	-
8.	Fertilizers (5 times)	-	-	4000	-
9.	Pesticides & labour charge	1000	-	3000	-
10.	Harvesting charge	6000	-	5000	-
11.	Transport, Commission, Tax	6000	-	9000	-
12.	6tonnes bitter gourd- @ Rs.8/kg	-	48,000	-	-
13.	10tonnes bitter gourd	-	-	-	80,000
	Total	18,740	48,000	30,000	80,000
	Net profit	-	29,260 (4months)	-	50,000 (6months)

In natural pandal the cost of fertilizers applied for chilies and pandal(1lk in stone pandal) are less.

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