

Cultivation of Off-season Vegetables under Protected Conditions

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Abstract

Good health and good nutrition are highly essential component in today's life. Most of that is fulfilled by vegetables. The demand of growing vegetables is harnessing day by day. The important factor for vegetable growing is the climate. The alteration of climatic conditions is possible through the use of various protected structures such as poly houses, poly tunnel, trench greenhouse, net houses, shade nets. This has demanded the production of vegetables beyond the growing season which is called off season. The off season production of tomato, brinjal, capsicum, chilli, cucumber, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, radish, spinach, carrot, summer squash, and lettuce has been possible. The production of off season vegetables enables the grower for year round production by utilising resources.

Keywords: Off-season vegetables, protected cultivation, scope, profitability

1. Introduction

The growing demand of importance of nutrition in our daily diet has enhanced the role of vegetables in life. It is the vegetable which provide us a pocket of nutrients like vitamins and minerals. This raised the demand of production of vegetables. Production of vegetables under open field condition is not sufficient to feed the increasing population of world. This has raised the concept of off-season cultivation of vegetables. Off-season production refers to the growing of crops out of the normal cropping calendar (Fig. 1, 2 and 3). This is generally practised when supply is low and prices are high. The year round availability of vegetables is possible through this technology. The invention of structures such as poly houses, poly tunnels, trench greenhouses, shade nets, net-houses, walk in tunnels have proved to be beneficial