CHILLI FARMING

Farming time

- In the hills chilli is grown in the rainy season.
- In the low hills and valleys it is grown in the winter season.
- Chilli cannot bear extreme hot and extreme cold temperature.

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<th>Month/Region</th>
<th>Apr/May</th>
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Breed

- Suryamukhi
- Jwala
- Akabarey

Nursery

- In the hills, chilli saplings should be cultivated inside plastic greenhouses.
- In the valleys, raised nursery beds with shed should be used.
**Seed and Sapling Rate**

- Seeds: 60 gm per 0.05 hectare land
- Saplings: 4,000–5,000 plants per 0.05 hectare land
- Good yield can be had from the use of quality seeds.

**Land Preparation**

- In the winter and spring season, the chilli crop can be cultivated in plain and flat land.
- In the rainy season the crop can be cultivated in ridges.
- Ridges should be built only after deep tilling.

**Fertilizer**

- Fifty baskets (approximately 1.2 MT) of well-decomposed manure should be used per 0.05 hectare land.
• If available, 2 kg of urea, 4.5 kg of D.A.P. and 3.5 kg of Muriate of potash can be used for every 0.05 hectare land during the final stage of land preparation.

Transplanting of Sapling

• During winter, saplings should be transplanted when they have 5–6 leaves.
• In the rainy season, saplings should be transplanted when they have 7–8 leaves.

Weed Control

• Weeds should not be allowed to grow when farming chillis.
Additional Fertilizer

- A mixture of cattle urine and water should be applied at the rate of 1 litre per 1 sq m of land every 15 days.

- In case of use of chemical fertilizers, 4 and 8 days after transplanting the saplings, 1,500 gm of urea per 0.05 hectare land should be applied around the plants at a time.
- After applying the manure, the crop should be covered with soil.
- If the soil lacks moisture, additional fertilizer should be applied and irrigation should be done.

Harvesting

- Chilli should be plucked while they are green and shiny. Their stem should be hard and should easily break while plucking.
- Ripened chilli is usually dried.
Storing

- Usually, chillies are properly dried in the sun and later used as spice.

(Source: Krishak Sahayogi Pustika: Nepalka Pramukh Tarakari tatha Khadanna Bali Kheti Prabidhi)