

PACKAGE OF PRACTICES FOR MAIZE CULTIVATION

Crop: Maize
 Variety/Hybrid: All types of Grower seeds varieties
 Sponsoring Organization: EPIC CROP SCIENCES. Hyderabad.

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Main Field Preparation: Maize needs well pulverized, fine and smooth field for seed emergence and root growth. Hence, deep tillage operation using mould board plough followed by two harrowing and one planking is needed for good field preparation and early season weed management.

Sowing Time: Kharif- 15th May & July Rabi- October to December

Seed rate: 8 kg/acre

Sowing method: It is desirable to dibble the maize seed at 2-3 cm depth, by the side of the ridges at a distance of 1/3 from the top of the ridge. Ridge sowing facilitated irrigation as well as drainage. Spacing should be followed at 45 cm between rows & 20 cm between plants. Seed can be treated with Bavistin + Captan in 1:1 ratio @ 2g/kg seed for Turcicum leaf blight, Banded leaf and sheath blight, Maydis leaf blight etc. Imidachlorpit @ 4 g/kg or Fipronil @ 4ml/Kg seed for termite and shoot fly.

Nutrient Management (kg/acre)

Apply 6-8 T/acre Farm yard manure (FYM) in field.

Time of Application	Urea	DAP	MOP	Zinc sulphate
Sowing (basal)	20	60	30	10
Knee high (1 st split)	40			
Pre- tasselling (2 nd split)	40		20	

Weed management: Pre emergence application of Atrazine at 400 g/acre followed by one hand weeding at 35-40 days. Weedicide should be sprayed 2 or 3 Days after sowing.

Water management

Under *kharif* season, 1-4 irrigations are required, which may vary depending on frequency of rainfall. Adequate moisture at germination, pre-tasselling, silking and grain-filling stages should be ensured through irrigation, if rainfall is not there.

Disease & Pest management

Dis./Pest	Management
Maydis leaf blight (MLB)	Foliar spray of Mancozeb @ 2.5 g/ L of water after about 15 days after sowing. Provide two more sprays at 10-day intervals or immediately after symptoms appearance.
Turcicum leaf blight (TLB)	Spray 2.5g Mancozeb or 1 ml Hexaconazole per litre of water immediately after appearance of the disease symptoms.
Banded leaf and sheath blight	Foliar spray Azoxystrobin 18.2% + Difenconazole 11.4% 1ml/L of water at 50 DAS or immediately after symptoms appearance. If needed, repeat the spray at 15 days interval
Fall Armyworm	Chlorantraniliprole (80 ml/acre) @ 0.4 ml/litre is recommended.
Spotted Stem borer	spray Chlorantraniliprole @150ml/ha
Shoot fly	Seed treatment with imidacloprid @ 6 ml/kg seed or Thiamethoxam @ 8 ml per kg seed.

Harvesting & threshing:

Harvest the crop when the husk cover turns pale brown and the grains are too hard to be pressed in with finger nail. The cobs may be harvested at about 20% grain moisture.

Disclaimer: Above given contents are based on results of research centres and advisories of central & state agricultural research institutes. The result may defer based on geographical and climatical conditions.