SWEET PEPPER

1. Climate:

Sweet Pepper is a warm and dry season crop. It germinates best at the temperature range from 20 to 30 and grows best around 25. Average daily temperatures of 20 to 25 are good for setting fruits. The fruits of sweet pepper are subjected to sunscald in high temperature and strong sunshine. Hot weather affects fruit settings.

2. Soil:

Sweet Pepper do best when grown on deep loam soil with good fertility, easy irrigation, adequate drainage and plenty of sunshine. The best soil for pepper is around pH is 6.5. Sweet pepper should not be grown on the same soil year after year because of disease problems. It is best to rotate with rice, Legume, Sugarcane and corn.

3. Seedling Care:

Sweet pepper can be direct seeded by broadcast or plant in row seedbeds. Usually 180 to 200 Gms of seed will produce enough good plants for planting one acre of field. Thinning the seedlings to proper space must be done within 2-3 days after first true leaf appears.

4. Transplanting and Spacing:

Transplant the seedlings at 5-6 true leaves stage. Space them 45cm apart in double rows of 60 cm apart on each bed of 90 cm wide.

The seedlings must be sufficiently watered several hours before transplanting to make it easier to remove the plant from the pot or seedling bed. Thus the roots of seedlings may hold as much soil as possible, so as to prevent wilting during transplanting.

Irrigation must be started immediately after the transplanting.

5. Manures and Fertilizers:

The fertilizer of sweet pepper is variable. Any fertilizer recommendation should be based on local experience. The table below shows one example of fertilizer application :(Kg/ha)

Fertilizer	Total Kg/ha	Basal-fertilizer	Top Dressing
Manure	25000	25000	--
Ammonium sulphate	750	375	375
Single Super Phosphate	468	468	----
Muriate of Potash	83	83	----

Further application of additional fertilizer should be determined according to the vigor of plants.

6. Management:

Sweet pepper is a shallow rooted crop. Therefore it is not drought resistant. Sweet Pepper is especially sensitive to water stress during fruit setting period. When the weather is hot and dry flowers and fruits drop easily. Therefore irrigation should be applied frequently to maintain a steady growth.

Water draining should be carried out during rainy season in order to prevent root damage.

Sweet Pepper plants fall easily to the ground due to the weight of fruits on the top. To prevent plants from falling it is recommendable that stakes are used to support the plants.

Weeds must be removed as early as possible by hoeing the soil but not too deep to damage the roots. Hoeing should not be done during the latter part of the growing season, it is better to use hand or sickle weeding.

It necessary to remove all the side shoots below the first branching of main stem to promote the fruit-set.

Cultivation and weeding should be carried out before the first and second side - dressing. Apply soil to cover the side – dressed fertilizer on the shoulders of the bed to facilitate the growth of roots and to increase the absorption of nutrients.

Straw mulching is important to prevent soil erosion during rainy season. It also keeps the soil moist during a rainy season and avoids sudden rise of temperature in the soil during the hot season.

7. Harvest:

The best time to harvest quality sweet pepper for fresh market is before the fruit reaches full maturity.

Plant Protection (Days after Transplanting)

10 Days	Monocrotophos (1ml/ lit)+Acephate (1gm/ lit) Or Desis (1ml/lit)
20 Days	Mancozeb (2gm/ lit)+ Imidacloprid (0.25ml/lit) Or Nuvacron (2ml/lit)+ Kavach (2gm/lit)
30 Days	Chlorothalonil (2 gm/ lit) + Fipronil (0.25ml/ lit)
40 Days	COC (2gm/ lit)+Carbaryl (3 gm/ lit)
50 Days	Mancozeb (2gm / lit) + Quinolphos (2ml/ lit)
60 Days	Carbendazim (2gm / lit)+Acetamaprid (0.25ml/ lit)
70 Days	Triadimefon (0.5gm/lit) + Dicholorovas (2ml / lit)

Note: The above information is provided based on research and field observation. Variations in local condition may affect the information and suggestions contained above and for which the company should not be held liable. In case of doubt, it is recommended to carry out ordinary trial production in order to test local growing condition in different seasons and area.