Cherry Tomato

1. Climate &Soil Requirement:

Cherry Tomato is a relative warm season crop. Plants grow Well at the temperature range of 19℃ to 30℃.It also requires plenty of Sunshine but low humidity continuous rain in the hot weather will increase disease problems such as bacterial wilt, blight, rot and Fruit cracking.

Tomato grows best on deep sandy loam or clay loam soil with ph 6-7, good water holding ability, rich organic matters and good drainage. The location should be free form nematodes and other soil borne diseases. Successional cropping should be avoided because of bacterial wilt and other soil borne disease problems. It is best to rotate tomato with rice and legume crops and wait for 3 years before plant it again on the same ground.

2. Soil:

It does 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. Hot 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:

As the seed of Cherry tomato is small, it is better to raise seedling using tray & cocopeat media. 104 cup trays can be used. Raise the seedling in proper nursery condition. Irrigate the seedlings to keep enough moisture. High temperature & high humidity results in diseases like color rot, root rot. It takes 20-30 days from sowing to transplanting.

4. Transplanting and Spacing:

Transplant the seedlings at 5-6 true leaves stage. Space them 60cm apart in double rows on each bed spaced at 1.5-2m 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:

Any fertilizer recommendation should be based on local experience and depends on soil type. This is the general dose of fertilizer to get overall idea about the nutritional requirement.

a. Manure: 8-10 Tons/acre of well decomposed compost can be used to mix in the bed properly.

b. Basal Dose – 10:26:26 – 100kg, Neem Cake 100kg, Secondary Nutrients (mix) 50kg, Micro-Nutrient (mix) 10Kg at the time of bed preparation per acre.
c. Side-Dressing:

Fertilizer	Days after transplanting	Dose (Kg)/acre
Ammo. Sulphate	15	50
Ammo. Sulphate	30	50
Micro-Nutrient (mix)	45	5
DAP	45	75
Calcium + Boron	60	5kg + 1kg
10: 26:26	60	50
10: 26: 26	85	50

10:26:26 can be repeated every at every 15 days interval till end of crop-life. Additional micro-nutrient sprays as per deficiency.

6. Water Management:

Tomato is a shallow rooted crop. Therefore it is not drought resistant. It 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.

7. Staking & Pruning:

As plant lodges from fruit setting, it requires proper staking with help of bamboo sticks and wires. Depending on the type of variety (determinate or indeterminate) keep the height of bamboo & wire support.

To control the vegetative growth & fruit size, it is necessary to prun the plant. 3 or 4 stem pruning is recommended. For this select the main stem & side stem just below the first flower twig. Allow only 3-4 stems to grow & prun the other side branches.

7. Harvest:

Discard the first fruit setting if the size of fruit is bigger. Once you achieve desired size, harvest the fruits in early morning (when temp. is low) by keeping calyx if possible (it can give attractive look to the fruit). Grade the fruits as per size & quality. Discard the abnormal shape/size, diseased, craked fruits. Pack the fruits in ventilated boxes & send to the market.

8. Plant Protection:

Normal pests & diseases in large Tomato are observed in Cherry Tomato. So care shall be taken accordingly.

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.