

Foxtail Millet (*Cawn*) (*Setaria italica*)

Variety: Local (yellow grain type)

Duration: 100-120 days

Soil type: Silt loam to Sandy loam

Field preparation:

The field should be prepared thoroughly by giving 4-6 ploughings followed by one laddering to obtain a fine tilth.

Time of sowing:

Middle of January to middle of February (the best time is last week of January).

Seed rate:

Seed rate is 8-10 kg/ha, which may be increased to 15 kg/ha under broadcast sowing.

Spacing: 25 cm between rows.

Method of sowing:

Furrows of 5 cm depth are to be prepared at 25 cm apart. Seeds are to be placed in the furrow preferably at 3-5 cm depth but not below 5 cm depth. Laddering should be done along the furrows to cover the seeds with a soil layer of about 3-5 cm. Laddering also ensures compaction of soil which results in uniform and quick germination.

Fertilizer:

Nutrient	Requirement (kg/ha)	Form	Fertilizer requirement	
			kg/ha	kg/bigha
N	20	Urea	44	6
P ₂ O ₅	10	SSP	63	9
K ₂ O	10	MOP	17	2

Full doses of inorganic fertilizer are to be applied in soil preferably one day before sowing. The fertilizer should be thoroughly mixed with soil.

Weed control:

Weeding should be done manually before the weed plants attain 4-5 leaf stage. Dry land weeder may effectively be used in case of line sowing.

Plant protection:

A). Insect pests:

i). Gundhi bug: When the attack of gundhi bug is observed in the field, neem seed kernel extract (NSKE) 1500 ppm @ 3-5 ml/lit may be applied for its effective control.

Harvesting:

Harvesting should be done when the millet panicles turn yellowish.

Threshing:

Immediately after harvest, threshing is to be done by treading with bullocks or by foot.

Uses:

The grains are to be dehusked with '*dhenki*', a locally used dehusking device. The dehusked grains can be cooked like rice. It makes good porridge. It is also used in making flour and '*laddus*'. The straw can be used as cattle feed.

Average yield: 12 q/ha.