

Innovations in Gooseberry Cultivation by Mr. Balasubramanian

Mr. Balasubramanian aged 59 years studied upto SSLC and involved in farming in Kaaniyampalayam village in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. He is owning 10 acres of garden land irrigated with 2 open wells. He is keeping 2 Kangayam cows in his farm mainly for preparation of *panchakavya* and *jeevaamurdham* for using them as growth promoter for crops.



Gooseberry cultivation:

He has been cultivating gooseberry in 2 acres for the last 10 years. He has planted different varieties of gooseberry viz: Bhavani Sagar(PSR),NA-7, Kanjan. He planted the trees with 12'x12' spacing. He is maintaining 200 trees per acre. He is applying organic manure using farm yard manure and oil cake. Yearly once manures are applied to trees with a mixture of ½ kg mixed oil cake and 1 kg of farm yard manure during February-March. Mixed oil cakes are prepared with mixture of 5 various cakes namely: groundnut cake, neem cake, coconut cake, castor cake, sesame cake respectively. In addition, he is giving panchagavya spray and herbal pesticide as foliar spray given alternatively i.e. panchagavya followed by herbal pesticide regularly. Panchakavya and herbal pesticides are sprayed at an interval of 15days to the tree at 2 application during March onwards when flowering starts.

He planted gooseberry by leaving paddy production for about 2 acres. Flowering occurs during the month of July and August. Gooseberry harvesting can be done twice an year during May and September. Irrigation for trees must be avoided during cool season especially during Nov to February. Drip irrigation is provided to trees at an interval of 4 days. His method of preparation of panchagavya and herbal pesticide are shown below:

Spray of organic liquid fertilizer for enhancing bearing :

1. Spray of *Panchagavya*

Components required:

Cow dung-5kg , cow urine – 5lit , tender coconut -3 lit, ghee- 1 lit , banana- 12 , sugarcane juice-3 lit, curd -2 lit , milk – 2 lit.

Primarily cow dung and ghee is mixed and kept aside for 2days in shadow. On the 3rd day, all the other ingredients/components are mixed and kept for fermentation for 3 weeks. Meanwhile daily the mixture must be stirred(rotated by using a stick) twice properly. Now *panchakavya* is ready and can be applied to the tree as spray by mixing ½ lit of *panchakavya* mixture with 10 lit of water in the sprayer tank. While flowering stage of gooseberry trees, Panchagavya and organic pesticides is applied one by one at an interval of 15 days once to the trees. Jeevaamurdham is applied ½ lit along with the canal irrigation.

2. Application of jeevamurdham:

Components required:

Cow dung-5kg , cow urine – 5lit , pulse flour -1/4 kg , jaggery -1/4 kg.

All the above components must be mixed in a barrel and kept 3 days for fermentation. Now *jeevamurdham* is ready and now 1 lit is mixed with 10lit of water and diluted along with the irrigation water to the trees. For coconut , panachagavya must be applied at the interval of 15 days once at an depth of 6 ft . It helps in increasing the soil fertility and worm production.

3. Preparation of Herbal pesticide:

Chotrakaalai(Aloe vera), neem seed, *erukku*(calotropis), *nochi*(vitex negundo), *aadathodai*(justicia adathoda), *mathaalampoond*(crateva adasoni) are taken as equal quantity and well ground together and made as paste. This paste of 250ml is mixed with 10 lit of water and applied as spray as pesticide for the trees.

To prevent Sooty Mould disease i.e. *thenolugal noi* (caused by sucking pests) *maida* flour is mixed with water in sprayer tanks (@1/4 kg in 10 lit of water)and applied as spray at the affected branches. This will kill the sucking pests due to sticky nature of solution sprayed.

4.Pruning of gooseberry:

Frequent cutting of branches of goose berry trees helps in higher fruits and easy for plucking of the trees during harvest. From the ground level about 5 ft height the branches are cut and pruned. This enables growth of side shoot profusely and more fruiting

Income from Gooseberry Cultivation :

After complete development of the fruit, harvest is done.20 kg of fruits is obtained per tree. 1kg of fruit Rs. 50. So he obtains Rs. 1000 per tree i.e. 1acre=200 trees. Approximately Rs. 2 lakh is obtained per acre. After all the expenses in transport ,labour and other agronomic practises which cost about Rs. 50,000. Finally Rs. 1.5 lakh is obtained as profit per acre in gooseberry production.

5. Recipes of Gooseberry:

Gooseberry Juice:

Two gooseberries are taken and are cut in uniform sizes and 2 date fruits are cut into small pieces after removing the seeds. Afterwards cardamom and jaggery is added. All these ingredients are well grinded in mixee and added 3 glasses of water. Now gooseberry juice is ready which when we consume in the morning it cleans (suddhi) our body system.

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