

## Challenges of cabbage cultivation in Camper Bazar Panchayat, Tripura

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### ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to highlight the challenges of cabbage cultivation in Camper Bazaar Panchayat, Tripura. The results indicated that prices of cabbage fluctuated during November-March. It is evident from the study that cabbage is the more popular vegetable in the survey area. Farmers are basically cultivated for earning more income but they are facing many problems for that, like as (i) very less demand in local market, and (ii) obstacle for selling vegetables in city market. Broker or middlemen are getting the more benefits. They are purchasing vegetables from the farmers at cheap price and sell those at high prices in city markets. This is the one of the major reasons for high price in vegetable market or otherwise for inflation. Therefore proper distribution is more important for reducing it. Thus, the paper suggests that government should take initiatives for purchasing vegetables from farmers directly through NGO's and give some relief to the farmers.

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Cabbage is a popular cultivar of the species *Brassica Coleracea* Linn. of the family Brassicaceae and is used as a leafy green vegetable. It is an herbaceous, biennial, dicotyledonous flowering plant distinguished by a short stem upon which is crowded a mass of leaves, usually green but in some varieties red or purplish, which while immature form a characteristic compact, globular cluster. Cabbage leaves often have a delicate, powdery, waxy coating called bloom. The occasionally sharp or bitter taste of cabbage is due to glucosinolate(s). Cabbages are a good source of riboflavin (Cabbage, 2010). The most interesting property of this vegetable is its power to reduce the risk of developing a colon cancer. Studies have shown that population who eat large amounts of cabbage have low rate of colon cancer. This is due to its high content in fibres and chemicals. Fibres help our intestines to stay healthy by increasing our transit movements. Cabbage also contains chemicals that inhibit tumor growth and protect cells against free radicals (Cabbage, 1999). Cabbage heads should be large and compact (not fluffy), heavy for their size, with tender green leaves showing no evidence of damage or insect nibbles.

Cabbage is one of the most popular winter

vegetables grown in India. The major cabbage producing states are Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The cabbage plants thrive in a well relatively cool moist climate. In the plains it is grown mainly as a winter crop, whereas in the hills it is grown as a spring and early summer crop. Sandy loam soil is generally considered most suitable for an early maturing crop, but where higher yield is the main criterion, clay loam or silt loam soil is more suitable. It does not grow well in highly acidic soils. The optimum pH range for cabbage is between 5.5 and 6.5 (Cabbage, 2010).

The main objectives of this paper are to analyze the trend of vegetable production in the survey area and to identify various challenges for cabbage cultivation before farmers.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected from Camper Bazar Panchayat of Dugli R.D. Block in Tripura. The Camper Bazar Panchayat was selected purposely since agriculture is more popular in this Panchayat and this is situated near Bangladesh border. Out of 150 farmers, 80 were selected by using stratified random sampling *i.e.* 53.33 per cent. Data were collected by the investigator with the help of a well prepared, structured interview schedule employing personal contract. Thereafter, data were analyzed, tabulated and interpreted in the light of

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