

1. Introduction

- **Why Proper Field Management is Essential:**
 - Improves plant health and yields.
 - Reduces input costs through efficient resource use.
 - Ensures sustainable farming practices.
- **Stages of Vegetable Field Management:**
 - ✓ Early growth
 - ✓ Vegetative phase,
 - ✓ Flowering, and
 - ✓ Fruiting stages.

2. Key Aspects of Vegetable Field Management

a. Water Management

- **Irrigation Frequency:**
 - Varies by crop and growth stage. Young plants require frequent watering; mature plants need less frequent but deeper irrigation.
- **Methods:**
 - Drip irrigation for water efficiency.
 - By using water can or horse pipe.
- **Avoid Overwatering:** Prevents root rot and leaching of nutrients.

b. Fertilization and Nutrient Management

- **Application Timing:**
 - Basal application at planting and top-dressing during growth stages.
- **Organic Fertilizers:** Use compost, manure, or biofertilizers.
- **Crop-Specific Requirements:** Adjust nutrient applications based on the crop's needs (e.g., leafy vegetables require more nitrogen).

c. Weed Management

- **Importance:** Weeds compete for water, nutrients, and sunlight.
- **Techniques:**
 - Hand weeding or hoeing at 2-3 week intervals.
 - Mulching to suppress weeds.
- **Avoid Herbicides:** Encourage organic practices.

d. Pest and Disease Management

- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM):**
 - Regular field scouting to identify pests early.
 - Use neem, bio-pesticides, or traps for pest control.

- Maintain crop rotation to prevent pest build-up.
- **Disease Management:**
 - Remove infected plants to prevent disease spread.
 - Use organic fungicides (e.g., Trichoderma).

e. Pruning and Thinning

- Remove overcrowded or diseased branches to enhance air circulation.
- Thin plants to recommended spacing for optimal growth.