

Benefits

- Raised beds provide better drainage which helps avoid root rot and other water-related plant diseases.
- The soil in raised beds warms up earlier in the spring and stays warmer later in the fall, compared to ground-level soil, extending the growing season.
- Raised beds help reduce soil erosion.
- Raised beds can be easily covered to protect from frost, and weeds can be removed more efficiently
- Furrows in raised beds not only facilitate irrigation, also make it easier to harvest vegetables without damaging the plants
- Furrows can be utilised for intercropping after establishment of vegetables.

Challenges

- Preparing and maintaining raised beds involves extra cost and time.
- Raised beds also dry out faster, necessitating more frequent irrigation compared to flood irrigation.

Scaling Potential

Raised bed farming is suitable for the entire command areas of the left-bank canals of the Guddu and Sukkur Barrages and the whole command of Kotri Barrage. This includes districts such as Sukkur, Khairpur, Naushahro Feroze, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sanghar, Matiari, Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas, Tando Muhammad Khan, Thatta, Badin, Sujawal, and the periphery of Karachi.



Figure: Tomatoes and Chilies grown on narrow beds whereas sugarcane in the furrows