

Jute Cultivation Guide

Introduction

Jute (*Corchorus spp.*) is a natural fiber crop widely grown for its strong and biodegradable fibers. It is primarily cultivated in tropical regions with high humidity and ample rainfall. Jute is used in making ropes, bags, mats, and eco-friendly textiles, making it an important cash crop.

Steps of Cultivation

1. Variety Selection

- Choose high-yielding and disease-resistant varieties.
- Common varieties include JRO-524, JRO-8432, and JRO-66 for white jute (*Corchorus capsularis*) and JRO-128 and JRO-878 for tossa jute (*Corchorus olitorius*).

2. Soil Preparation

- Prefers well-drained, loamy, or clayey soil with a pH of 5.0–7.5.
- Land should be plowed 2–3 times to achieve a fine tilth.
- Organic manure or compost should be added to improve soil fertility.

3. Sowing and Spacing

- Sowing is done from March to May, depending on rainfall.
- Seeds should be sown in rows with a spacing of 20–30 cm.
- Seed rate: 5–7 kg per hectare for broadcast sowing, 3–4 kg per hectare for line sowing.

4. Irrigation and Water Management

- Requires frequent irrigation in dry conditions but can thrive with rainfed farming.
- Waterlogging should be avoided, as it can damage young seedlings.
- Proper drainage channels should be maintained in the field.

5. Fertilization and Nutrient Management

- Apply nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium fertilizers for healthy growth.
- Organic manure, such as cow dung and green manure, improves fiber quality.
- Micronutrients like zinc and boron enhance plant vigor.

6. Weeding and Pest Control

- Regular weeding is necessary in the first 4–5 weeks after sowing.
- Common pests: Jute stem weevil, jute semilooper, and aphids. Use biological control methods and neem-based pesticides.

- Common diseases: Stem rot and fungal blight. Apply fungicides and ensure proper crop rotation.

7. Harvesting and Retting

- Jute is ready for harvesting 100–120 days after sowing when plants start flowering.
- Plants are cut close to the ground, bundled, and retted in water for 2–3 weeks to separate fibers.
- After retting, fibers are extracted, washed, dried, and sorted for processing.

Conclusion

Jute cultivation is an eco-friendly and economically significant farming practice. Proper soil preparation, irrigation, and pest management contribute to high-quality fiber production. Sustainable harvesting and retting techniques ensure good fiber yield and market value.

