



Source: [Green grams](#) | Infonet Biovision

Watch out for:

- The moisture content at drying should not be above 13%.
- Proper drying is important to prevent the growth of fungi and contamination with aflatoxins.

Grams are native crops of India. Often called green gram (*Vigna radiata*) or golden, it is cultivated in several countries in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. The dried beans are prepared by cooking or milling. They are eaten whole or split. The seeds or the flour may be used in a variety of dishes like soups, porridge, snacks, bread, noodles, and even ice cream. Green gram also produces great sprouts, which can be sold in health food shops or eaten at home.

Green grams grow best at an altitude of 0-1600 m above sea level and under warm climatic conditions (28 to 30°C). They are well adapted to red sandy loam soils but also do reasonably well on not-too-exhausted sandy soils. Green grams are not tolerant to wet, poorly drained soils. They are drought-tolerant and will give reasonable yields with as little as 650 mm of yearly rainfall. Heavy rainfall results in increased vegetative growth with reduced pod setting and development.

Propagation is by seed. There is no seed dormancy. Seeds may sprout in the pod under very humid conditions. In areas with higher rainfall, it is recommended to grow green grams on raised beds. Prepare the beds, raised about 20 cm and spaced 1 m from the center of one bed to the center of the next. Sow seeds on raised beds in two rows per bed, spaced 45 cm apart.

Green grams will respond to fertilizer or manure application but will normally give satisfactory results if grown on relatively good soil. Green gram is grown mainly on smallholdings, often as mixed crops, or intercrops. Associated crops are usually of longer duration than green gram (sugar cane, cotton, sorghum). To make use of a short cropping period, short-duration green gram is often relay-cropped.

Green grams usually mature in 60 to 90 days. The early maturing varieties can often produce before drought destroys many bean species.