

In-Depth Guide on Linseed Cultivation

1. Introduction

Linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*), also known as flaxseed, is an oilseed crop grown during the Rabi season. It is valued for its oil, which is used in industrial and culinary applications, and is primarily cultivated in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh.

2. Climate and Soil Requirements

- Temperature: Requires 15–25°C during its growth period.
- Rainfall: Prefers 30–40 cm; excessive rainfall can harm yields.
- Soil:
 - Fertile loam to clay loam soils.
 - Soil pH: 6.0–7.5.

3. Seed Selection and Preparation

- Varieties:
 - Neelum: High oil content.
 - Surabhi: Suitable for irrigated areas.
- Seed Rate: 25–30 kg per hectare.
- Seed Treatment: Treat seeds with Thiram (2 g/kg).

4. Sowing Techniques

- Time of Sowing: Late October to mid-November.
- Method: Line sowing for better spacing and airflow.
- Depth and Spacing:
 - Sow seeds 2–3 cm deep.
 - Maintain 20 cm row spacing and 5–7 cm plant spacing.

5. Fertilizer Management

- Base Fertilizers:
 - Nitrogen (N): 20–25 kg/ha.
 - Phosphorus (P): 40 kg/ha.
- Application: Apply all fertilizers at sowing.

6. Irrigation Management

- Provide irrigation at the critical flowering and pod formation stages.
- Avoid overwatering to prevent fungal diseases.

7. Pest and Disease Management

- Pests:
 - Aphids: Spray Dimethoate (0.03%).
- Diseases:
 - Wilt: Use Carbendazim-based fungicides.

8. Weed Control

- Apply Pendimethalin (1 liter/ha) as pre-emergence herbicide.
- Hand weeding at 30 days after sowing.

9. Harvesting and Post-Harvest Management

- Harvesting:
 - Harvest when plants turn yellow and capsules dry.
- Threshing: Use manual or mechanical threshing.
- Storage: Store seeds in a cool, dry place to prevent rancidity.

10. Yield and Economics

- Yield: 1–1.2 tons per hectare.
- Cost of Cultivation: ₹12,000–₹15,000 per hectare.
- Market Price: ₹5,000–₹6,000 per quintal.