**Tomato Farming Business Plan for Beginners**

Tomato is one of the most important and highest-grown [**food crops**](https://nextwhatbusiness.com/cash-crop-farming-business-ideas/)in the world. This is a warm-season vegetable. A tomato plant cannot withstand frost and humidity.

Tomato ranks second in priority after Potato in the world. This implies there’s probably a high demand for tomatoes. Tomatoes are generally used in three ways. One is in the green salad as fresh, in cooked food recipes, and as processed tomato products like sauce, juice, puree, ketchup, etc.

Commercial tomato cultivation can be done on open land and in greenhouses. The most important thing is you can grow tomatoes even on a small piece of land. And that will also give you a substantial profit.

### **Health Benefits Of Tomatoes**

* Tomatoes are one of the low-calorie vegetables; hold just 18 calories per 100 g. They are also very low in fat content and have zero cholesterol levels.
* The antioxidants present in tomatoes are scientifically found to be protective against cancers, including colon, prostate, breast, endometrial, lung, and pancreatic tumors.
* Lycopene, a flavonoid antioxidant, is a unique phytochemical compound found in tomatoes.
* It contains very good levels of vitamin A, and flavonoid anti-oxidants such as a and ß-carotenes, xanthins, and lutein. Altogether, these pigment compounds are found to have antioxidant properties and take part in night-vision, maintenance of healthy skin, and bones.
* Regular consumption of tomatoes can also provide relief from gallbladder diseases such as gallstones.

### Suitable soils For Tomato Cultivation

The tomato grows on practically all soils from light sandy to heavy clay. Light soils are good for an early crop, while clay loam and silt loam soils are well suited for heavy yields. Most perfect is soil with more sand in the surface layer and clay in the sub-surface layers. Tomatoes do best in soil that has a soil reaction from pH 6.0 to 7.0.

### Seed & Seedlings For Tomato Cultivation

Proper preparation of land is mandatory. For raising the seedlings in a nursery bed 300 – 400 g/ha seeds are required. Seedlings are grown within one month of transplanting raised beds of 60-100 cm width and of convenient length. Soil solarization of nursery beds by covering them with a white transparent polyethylene sheet for one month should be done in the hot summer months. About 400-500 g seeds are needed for the one-hectare area. The suitable height for the tomato plant for transplanting is 7.5 cm to 10 cm with a good sturdy stem.

#### **a. Land preparation for Tomato Farming:**

You must prepare the land to a fine tilth by thorough plowing or digging 2 – 3 times. At the last, apply to plow organic manure and 10 kg carbofuran granules or 200 kg neem cake in the soil.

#### **b. Transplanting:**

The transplanting is done in small flatbeds or in shallow furrows depending upon the availability of irrigation. In heavy soil, it is usually transplanted on ridges and during the rains also it is advantageous to plant the seedlings on ridges.

#### **c. Irrigation:**

Tomato plants require adequate moisture throughout their growth period. Drip irrigation is most appropriate to maintain a uniform moisture supply. You will need to arrange the first irrigation soon after the seedlings are transplanted. Daily irrigation is necessary when plants are small.

#### **d. Weed Control:**

You can use intercultural operations like hand hoeing, weeding, mulching, and staking as general systems for the control of weeds.

### 2. Plant Protection Systems For Tomato Cultivation

The Basic two issues are insect management and disease management. Some of the major potential harmful insects are the Leaf-eating caterpillar, Tomato fruit borer, Tomato Wilt, and Powdery mildew. Proper precautions and preventive measures need to follow.

Tomato is attacked by a vast range of fungi, bacteria, and viruses. The most common diseases are anthracnose, bacterial spot, bacterial blight, bacterial canker, buckeye rot, damping-off, early blight, fusarium blight, late blight, leaf curl, mosaic, powdery mildew, rots, and septoria leaf blight. You must provide proper disease management to the farm to ensure the minimum losses from the diseases.

### 3. Harvesting & Storage For Tomato Farming

The maturity of tomato plants is achieved after 8-12 weeks of planting. The yield of a tomato depends on variety and season, which varies from 20 to 24 t/ha. Quality characteristics such as flavor, texture, and color are better maintained when the fruit is harvested at an earlier stage of maturity.

The harvesting time depends on the purpose for which tomato is grown and the distance over which they are to be transported. You must pick tomatoes at the mature green stage for long-distance transportation. Fully ripened and good red colors are desirable for processing and preparing tomato puree and ketchup.

### **Things To Consider in Tomato Farming Business**

Commercial tomato cultivation is a profitable vegetable farming business. However, to ensure the profit maximization from the produce, you must maintain some basics.

* Variety choice plays a big role in the success of a tomato cultivation business. You must select the right one that fits with the other climatic and soil condition.
* One must start the plantation at the right time of the season.
* You will need to follow the proper plantation and crop management practices.
* The right soil condition enhances the per Ha production output. Soil testing and treatment are recommended.
* You must arrange proper irrigation for tomato cultivation.
* Proper fertilization and insect management are required