FARM OPERATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

SUGARCANE

Complete the planting of sugarcane upto 20th October. Intercropping of wheat, raya, toria, gobhi sarson, pea, gram, potato, cabbage, radish, garlic etc. can be done successfully in this crop.

WHEAT

1. Start sowing wheat varieties, namely, PBW 725, PBW 677, HD-3086, WH 1105, PBW 621, HD 2967 and durum wheat WHD 943 and PDW 291 under irrigated conditions and PBW 660 and PBW-644 under rainfed conditions from last week of October.

2. In medium fertility soils, apply 55 kg DAP/acre at sowing to irrigated wheat as a source of nitrogen and phosphorus. If 155 kg single super phosphate is applied as a source of phosphorus then apply 20 kg urea just before pre-sowing irrigation or with the preparatory tillage. In potassium deficient soils, apply 20 kg muriate of potash/acre alongwith above mentioned fertilizers. The dose of muriate of potash may be doubled in the districts of Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Roopnagar and Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar.

3. For Judicious use of nitrogen fertilizer use PAU LCC as described below.

- Drill 55 kg di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) per acre at sowing in medium fertility soils. Apply 40 kg urea per acre for timely sown and 25 kg urea per acre for late sown (after mid December) wheat with first irrigation.
- Match leaf colour of the topmost fully exposed intact leaf from the randomly selected ten plants with LCC under shade of your body before second irrigation (about 50-55 days after sowing). Apply urea based on leaf greenness of majority of leaves as per following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAU-LCC reading</th>
<th>More than LCC 5</th>
<th>LCC 4.5 to LCC 5</th>
<th>LCC 4 to 4.5</th>
<th>Less than LCC 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urea dose (Kg/acre)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The leaves selected for matching colour with LCC should be free from disease/insect incidence and other nutrient deficiencies.

In rainfed areas, apply 35 kg urea, 100 kg single superphosphate and 20 kg muriate of potash/acre at sowing in sandy loam to clay loam soils. Drill 35 kg urea, 50 kg superphosphate and 10 kg muriate of potash/acre at sowing in loamy sand to sand soils. Termite is a serious pest in light textured soil, particularly in Barani areas. Before sowing, treat wheat seed with Cruiser 70 WS @ 1g/kg or Dursban/Ruban/Durmet 20 EC (chlorpyriphos) @ 4 ml/kg seed to check the termite damage at early stage. Seed treated with Neonix also control smuts of wheat.

Loose smut and Flag smut: Treat the seed of wheat with Raxil Easy/Orius @ 0.33 ml / kg seed (Dissolve 13 ml Raxil Easy in 400 ml water and mix with 40 kg seed) or Vitavax @ 2 g/kg or Vitavax Power @ 3g/kg or Tebuseed/Exzole/Seedex 2 DS @ 1g/kg for the management of loose smut and flag smut. Seed treatment should be done with seed treating drum. Seed treatment should not be done earlier than one month of sowing as it affects seed germination.
**PULSES**

**Gram**
1. Grow varieties PDG-4, PDG-3 (under rainfed from 10 to 25 October) and GPF-2 in the Central and South-Western districts and varieties PBG 5 which have resistance to gram blight in the sub-mountainous districts and PBG-7 in all the districts under irrigated conditions.
2. The best time of sowing of *Desi* and *Kabuli* gram in the entire state is 25 October to 10 November under irrigated conditions.
3. To manage gram blight, grow PBG-7 or PBG 5 in disease prone areas.
4. At the time of sowing, drill 13 kg urea and 50 kg single superphosphate per acre for desi gram but in case of Kabuli gram, drill 13 kg urea and 100 kg single superphosphate/acre. Also, inoculate the seed with biofertilizer consortium before sowing.

**Lentil**
Use varieties LL-931/ LL 699 and start sowing from end of October. Inoculate the seed with *Rhizobium* culture which ensure higher yield. Drill 11 kg urea and 50 kg single superphosphate/acre in case of inoculated seed otherwise double the dose of single superphosphate at the time of sowing.

**OILSEEDS**
1. For *raya*, use varieties RLC-3, PBR 357, PBR-210, RLM-619, PBR-91 under irrigated conditions and PBR-97 under rainfed conditions. The optimum period for sowing *raya* is the second fortnight of October. PBR 210 and PBR 91 are recommended for South-Western districts only. *Gobhi sarson* (GSC-7, GSC-6, GSL-1, GSL-2, Hyola (PAC-401) should be sown from 10th of October to end of October. African sarson PC-5 can also be sown during whole month.
2. Drill 45 kg urea, 75 kg single superphosphate and 10 kg muriate of potash per acre before sowing of *raya* and *gobhi sarson* but in *gobhi sarson* sown on light textured soils, increase the dose of urea to 65 kg per acre. In rainfed conditions, apply 33 kg urea and 50 kg single superphosphate/acre at sowing.
4. **Weed Control**: One hoeing to *toria* after the third week of sowing and one or two hoeings preferably with improved wheel hoe to *raya*, *gobhi sarson* and *taramira* are adequate.

**FODDER PRODUCTION**
1. *Berseem* and shaftal sowing should be completed in first week of October. This month is also ideal for sowing lucerne, oats and senji. Berseem crop may be supplied six tonnes farm yard manure (FYM) and 125 kg single superphosphate per acre before sowing and where FYM is not added, 185 kg single superphosphate should be applied along with 22 kg urea per acre.
2. In order to get higher yield from first cutting, sow *berseem* or lucerne in mixture with oats and *sarson*. This mixture also helps in keeping the *itsit* under check.
3. Conserve surplus maize/sorghum as silage to meet the fodder requirements in lean period for cheaper milk production.
VEGETABLE CROPS

Root Crops

Mix 15 tons of well rotten FYM in soil 10 days before sowing. Apply 55 kg urea and 75 kg single superphosphate per acre for radish, turnip and carrot. Carrot also requires 50 kg muriate of potash per acre. Complete sowing of varieties of Punjab Safed Mooli-2, Punjab Pasand of radish, L-1 of turnip and Punjab Black Beauty, Punjab Carrot Red and PC-161 of carrot. Use 2-3 kg seed/acre for turnip and 4-5 kg seed per acre for carrot and radish. Sowing on 45 cm ridges is better for obtaining higher yield, easy harvesting, better root shape, less forking and richness in nutrients. Plant thinning is recommended 15 days after sowing to maintain plant-plant distance for better root development. For large scale planting of carrot, tractor operated inclined plate planter can be used to sow seeds on beds at 67.5 cm spacing. The machine plants 4 rows on each bed with 10 cm spacing between rows and 8 cm between plants and there is no need of thinning.

Cole Crops

Start transplanting of 4-6 weeks old seedlings of cabbage, mid season cauliflower, Chinese cabbage and broccoli. Keep line and plant to plant spacing at 30 × 30 cm for Chinese cabbage, 45 × 30 cm for cauliflower and 60 × 45 cm for cabbage and 45 × 45 cm for broccoli. Apply irrigation once a week as per soil and climatic conditions. Do gap filling for good crop stand.

Pea

1. Start sowing of early season pea varieties i.e. Matar Ageta-7 and AP-3. Seed rate is 45 kg/acre for early crop. Start sowing main season pea for green pods from mid October to mid of November. Sow varieties Punjab 89 and Mithi Phali. Use 30 kg seed per acre. Drill seeds with ridger at 15 cm spacing.

Potato

1. Complete sowing of autumn potato crop in the first fortnight of October particularly for seed production purpose. Use healthy seed tubers.
2. Sow potato after applying 20 tonnes of farm yard manure, 80 kg urea, 155 kg single superphosphate, and 40 kg muriate of potash per acre. Farm yard manure should be applied about ten days before planting potato whereas fertilizer should be applied at the time of sowing preferably mixed with soil to avoid injury to tubers. Higher doses of nutrients can be applied if soil test shows low to very low status of these nutrients.
3. Application of paddy straw mulch @24q/acre immediately after planting provides effective weed control. For chemical weed control spray Gramoxone/Kabuto 24SL (Paraquat) @ 500-750 ml/acre upto 5-10 % emergence of potato crop and complete germination of weeds.
4. For the control of late blight, select healthy tubers for sowing. Infected/rejected tubers taken out of cold stores should be buried instead of keeping such tubers in the open area. Follow high ridge method to avoid tuber infection.
5. Disinfect the seed tubers in 0.083% Emesto Prime 240 FS or 0.25 % Monceren by dipping for 10 minutes to control black scurf. Avoid sowing of potato in fields with high incidence of common scab. Keep the soil wet at tuberization to minimize the scab infection. If there is a heavy shower in 3rd /4th week of October, protect the crop
immediately by spraying Indofil M-45/Mass M-45/Markzeb/Kavach/Antracol @ 500-700 g/acre.

Onion
1. Sow 4-5 kg seed on raised beds on an area of 8 marlas for raising nursery for one acre. For red onions, sow POH-1 hybrid/PRO-7/PRO-6/Pb Naroya varieties; for white onions sow PWO-1/Pb White and for yellow onions sow PYO-2 varieties.
2. Irrigate kharif planted crop as per soil and prevailing climate conditions.
3. Plant 8-10 quintal graded mother bulbs at 60 x45 cm for raising seed crop on one acre in the first fortnight of November.

Tomato
Start sowing nursery of tomato. Use 100 g seed of the recommended varieties/hybrids in two marlas (50 m²) bed area to grow seedlings for an acre. Sowing of Punjab Ratta, Punjab Red Cherry, Punjab Kaser Cherry, Punjab Sona Cherry, Punjab Chhuhara varieties and PTH-2 hybrid can be done.

Leafy Vegetables
Sow Palak variety Punjab Green using 5 kg seed per acre at a spacing of 20 cm between rows. Apply 10 tonnes FYM, 35 kg urea, and 75 kg single superphosphate per acre before sowing. Sow Kasuri methi variety Punjab Supreme using 10kg seed per acre. Sow by pora method in rows 20 cm apart. Apply 65kg urea in 3 split doses, half at sowing and remaining two in equal split after 1st & 2nd harvesting of leaves.
HORTICULTURAL OPERATIONS

1. The newly planted fruit plants need lot of care and management for their survival and growth. To build the string framework and proper shape, the plants should be staked with bamboo sticks. The suckers arising from the rootstock portion should be removed frequently.

2. For intercropping of rabi season crops in non-bearing orchards, the soil can be prepared. The crops like wheat, peas, senji and black gram can be sown at the inter-spaces among plants. However, separate irrigation system for intercrop and fruit plants is of utmost importance.

3. Physiological fruit drop in 'Umran' ber can be managed with spray of 15 g NAA (Naphthalene Acetic Acid) in 500 litres of water during 2nd fortnight of October and again in 2nd fortnight of November. Dissolve NAA in small quantity of Alchohal.

4. To suppress the weeds, the orchards bearing no fruits during this month should be cultivated lightly for the control of perennial weeds like baru, bhang, kahi, motha, parthenium etc. The basins of trees can be cleaned manually with khurpa or spade.

5. For weed management in ber orchards, apply paddy straw mulch @ 5.0 ton/acre under the tree canopies during second fortnight of October.

6. This is proper time to apply first split of recommended dose of N (500 g urea/plant) to the loquat plants.

7. Citrus leaf miner, if prevalent in orchards, spray 200 ml Crocodile/Confidor 17.8 SL in 500 litres of water per acre.

8. For management of citrus canker, spray 50 g of Streptocycline + 25 g of Copper sulphate in 500 litres of water/acre during this month and repeat during December and February. Bordeaux mixture (2:2:250) or copper oxychloride (0.3%) can also be sprayed.

**ORNAMENTALS**

**Annuals**

One month old the seedlings of winter season annuals should be transplanted during this month in the beds or pots. The annual flowering plants suitable for pots are *Calendula, Gazania, Pansy, Allyssum, Petunia*, ice plants marigold, matricaria etc.

**Chrysanthemum**

Do the staking of the plants grain in pots. Both for standard and spray types. Disbudding of side branches should be done in standard types.

**Roses**

1. Roses are pruned in this month, As general rule, rose plants are headed back 45 cm (from the ground level) and keep only 3-5 strong canes, which are growing outwards from the centre to the centre of the plant open. The cut ends should be treated with Bordeaux paste immediately after pruning.

2. Hoeing of rose beds and application of FYM (2-3 kg per plant) near base of the plants after exposing roots is done. Irrigate the plants after application of FYM.

3. The new plants of rose can also be planted in this month.

4. Root suckers arising from rootstock, must be removed as and when appear.

**Bulbous Plants**

The bulbs of Gladiolus, Narcissus (Nargis), Dahlia etc. can be planted in this month. Stop watering summer bulbous plants like Caladium, Tuberose, Football Lilly etc. when these shed leaves and uproot the bulbs 7-10 days after stopping water and store them if necessary.

**Marigold**

Both African and French marigold can be planted for cultivation. Seed sown during September month, will be ready for transplanting in the field. The seedlings which have acquired 3-4 leaves will be ideal for transplanting.

**Gerbera**

Gerbera grown under protected conditions during previous year will start flowering. Take care while harvesting the flower, so that plant is uprooted while plucking the flowers. Care must be taken for aphid and whitefly.
**DAIRY AND ANIMAL HEALTH**

1. Watch the animals regularly in the morning and evening for heat symptoms like mucous discharge, bellowing etc. Animals must conceive within 60-90 days after calving.
2. When heat signs are observed, get the dairy animals inseminated by adopting morning-evening formula. Animals seen in heat in morning are to be inseminated in evening and vice versa. Double insemination can be done in cows if their heat is prolonged.
3. Provide clean, dry and good bedding especially for young calves. Colostrum must be fed to the calves within 30 minutes after their birth. Get the calves disbudded and dewormed within 10 days of birth. Apply antiseptic cream on the wound regularly after disbudding.
4. Regular grooming of calves should be done to keep them clean. This practice will also help in detecting wound or tick infection.
5. The crossbred animals are more susceptible to various diseases associated with change in climatic conditions. These animals and their calves are likely to get diarrhoea may be due to internal parasites. Seek veterinary advice immediately and get the calves dewormed and diarrhoea treated.
6. For appropriate milk yield, do the milking quickly, quietly, cleanly and correctly with full hand.
7. Regularly feed the mineral mixture to the animal and give fresh water and provide green fodder and concentrate mixture.
8. The adult animals should be dewormed with broad spectrum anthelmintic. The anthelmintic used earlier should be changed in consultation with local Veterinarian to avoid anthelmintic resistance.
9. Prophylactic measures for control of tick, flies and mites should be taken.

**POULTRY**

1. Provide 14-16 hours lights including daylight to your flock if the flock has come in production.
2. Provide extra grit in addition to marble powder in feed for better quality of egg shell.
3. Keep the litter dry by stirring it 2-3 times in a week. If there is any wet part of litter, remove it immediately. Keep the litter depth 4-5 inches.
4. It is good time for raising broiler chicks. Get your chicks from reputed hatchery. Provide broiler chick feed for the first 4 weeks and then broiler finishes ration for 2-3 weeks to attain proper weight.
5. Always use good quality balanced feed free from dust and molds to avoid infections and drop in egg production.
AGROFORESTRY

**Poplar**

Irrigate plantations and nurseries need to be irrigated at the fortnightly interval. Cut the branches of the nursery for ensuring better quality planting stock. In case there is incidence of bark eating caterpillar, collect and destroying the infested leaves. Sowing of wheat/sugarcane as intercrop can be done. In the light soils, deficiency of zinc to observed in upper leaves. The leaves turn into yellow. Apply 100g, 200g ZnSo4 (21%) per plants in the plantations of 1, 3 and 5 years age.

**Safeda (Eucalyptus)**

Fodder crop should be grown in 10-15m wide strip running along the boundary plantation of Safeda.
MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

1. Clean and disinfect your growing rooms using 4-5 % formalin preferably a week before the completion of composting for button mushroom (1st – 2nd week of October).
2. The ready compost is spawned in the 2nd-3rd week of October in the cross ventilated covered space.
3. If cultivation is carried out on shelves or in trays, the top surface is covered with newspaper sheets and water spray is continued on these papers once a day.
4. For growing in bags, no watering is required in the first two weeks.
5. No cross ventilation is required during spawn run (1st two weeks after spawning).
6. Disinfect farm yard manure with 4-5 % formalin for its use as casing soil two weeks after spawning.
7. Cultivation of dhingri can also be started during this month.
8. Procure fresh paddy straw and make them into bundles for growing paddy straw mushroom during summer season.
BEE KEEPING

Measures should be undertaken to strengthen honey bee colonies to exploit honey flow from ber and ensuing flow from toria crop in the Punjab and from sarson in Rajasthan. If feasible, the colonies may be migrated to areas where these crops are grown in abundance, for increasing honey production and colonies growth. However, safe distance among the migratory apiaries of different beekeepers must be maintained to prevent the spread of bee diseases and mites. Dust sulphur powder on the top bars of bee combs underneath inner cover @ 1.0 g per comb against brood mite (Tropilaelaps clareae). Alternatively, fumigation with formic acid (85%) @ 5 ml daily for two weeks may be applied. The latter treatment will also take care of Varroa mite. However, formic acid should be avoided during nectar flow. In the case of heavy infestation by Varroa mite, destruction of capped drone brood comb part, Varroa trapping on drone brood and then its destruction and the use of sticky papers on bottom board can also be integrated. Dusting of icing sugar @ 15g per 10 bee-frame strength colony in the evening in between the bee combs is also helpful in reducing the mite population. Spray of freshly prepared oxalic acid solution (4.2% in 60% sugar solution) @ 5 ml per comb of bees in late evening thrice at weekly interval is also helpful against Varroa mite. Proper spacing among the colonies and the extraction of honey from only the brood free supers separated from brood chamber with horizontal queen excluder help in preventing spread of Varroa among the colonies in apiary. Keep vigil of the brood diseases and on suspicion, immediately consult experts and suggested control measures should be undertaken; non-chemical methods should be preferred. The suspected colonies should immediately be isolated from the healthy stock. Use of antibiotics against bee diseases should be avoided. In the areas of congenial climate and floral conditions and depending upon the colony performance/development including drone bees availability, mass queen bee rearing and colony multiplication or requeening can also be undertaken.
Compiled by:  Amarjit Singh