



Growing Vegetables with Drip Irrigation Provides More Returns



Mr. Ghalib, Mouza Tal Khalsa,
Tehsil Gujar Khan, District Rawalpindi

A FARMER'S EXPERIENCE

BENEFITS

- WATER SAVING BY 50%
- REDUCTION IN FERTILIZER USE UPTO 45%
- REDUCTION IN PRODUCTION COST UPTO 35%
- YIELD INCREASE UPTO 100%
- EARLY MATURITY OF CROP
- BETTER PRODUCE QUALITY
- CROP DIVERSIFICATION
- SUITABLE FOR UNEVEN TOPOGRAPHY



Growing vegetables with drip irrigation provides more economic returns than conventional irrigation methods as it reduces cost of production and gives better yields.

The farmer, Mr. Ghalib and his son Tasadaq Ejaz belong to tehsil Gujar Khan, district Rawalpindi and growing vegetables using “drip irrigation”.

While sharing his experience, he stated that “he acquired 13 acres land on lease from Ch. Muhammd Khalid at the rate of Rs. 4000 per Kanal per annum from 2013 to 2020. He had some earlier experience of farming and used to grow bitter gourd, capsicum and tomato in nearby village Salhal at his land. He managed a tubewell bore on leased land and requested Water Management Department to install drip irrigation system on 5 acres for growing vegetables. He grows tomato and cauliflower during Rabi season and cucumber and muskmelon during Kharif season”.

Mr. Tasadaq Ejaz indicated that he sought help from "seed companies, internet and various wings of Agriculture Department" to adopt appropriate vegetable production techniques. He explained that:

“He had three-times more

yield of tomato and two-times more yield of cucumber with drip irrigation as compared to flood irrigation. He is so encouraged that he made a request to Water Management Department to extend drip irrigation system on another area of eight (8) acres during the year 2015-16”.

Talking about the benefits of drip irrigation, the farmer shared that **“available water was always deficient for only 4 out of 13 acres land and kept fallow which are now cultivated/ irrigated after installation of drip irrigation system”.**



He also added that “actually water is provided in root zone of the plants and water losses are minimized. It resulted in utilization of every drop of the precious irrigation water efficiently. Besides other benefits,



drip irrigation also enabled me to provide the fertilizer to the plants accurately”.

According to agricultural experts drip irrigation fetches more benefits than conventional irrigation methods in terms of yield enhancement and reducing the cost of agricultural inputs.

Mr. Ghalib termed drip irrigation system extremely useful as it saves about 50 % labor and 70 % time as compared to traditional flood irrigation method. It is also very helpful in minimizing the weeds in all vegetables grown in rows that leads to cutting down weedicides cost to almost half.

When he was asked about difference in income from 13 acres with flood irrigation and drip irrigation system, he excitedly told that:

“He has recorded data about the yield and income of the farm and net income of about Rs. 1.8 million per annum with flood irrigation and more than Rs. 5.5 million with drip irrigation system from the same land”.

The farmer shared his experience that **“yield of cucumber and tomato crops increases 2- 3 times due to bigger fruit size with drip irrigation than flood irrigation”.**

