Lentil is a potential rabi pulse for Manipur which is hardy and can be grown successfully under rain fed conditions. It contains 63% Fiber, 37% Iron, 36% Protein & 21% Potassium. Also contains cholesterol lowering fiber, Burns blood sugar and Good for the heart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climate:</th>
<th>Lentil is adopted to cool growing conditions and young plants are tolerant to frost. High humidity and excessive rainfall encourage vegetative growth and prevents good yield &amp; and can reduce seed quality.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soil type:</td>
<td>Adapted to all types of soil, from sand to clay loam. Performs best in deep sandy loam soil. It cannot tolerate water logging. Well drained soil with moderate acidic condition (soil pH 6.0-6.4) gives good yield.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time of sowing:</td>
<td>15th October to 15th November (After November 15 yield may decrease)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Method of sowing:</td>
<td>a. <strong>Zero tillage cultivation</strong> is widely adopted in other parts of India; however zero tillage seed drill is required.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. <strong>Minimum tillage</strong> is the best option for Manipur. It not only conserves residual moisture but also reduces cost of cultivation.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. <strong>Relay cropping with paddy crop.</strong> Sow the seeds 15 days before harvest of paddy crop.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spacing:</td>
<td>30cm (12&quot;)X 10(4&quot;) cm (if planted in rows)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seed rate:</td>
<td>50-60 kg/ha for bold seeds</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30-40 kg/ha for small seeds</td>
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<td>(for zero tillage cultivation 15% more seed is required)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Seed treatment
- Treat the seed with Thiram + Carbendazim(1:1) @ 2.5g/kg of seed

Land preparation:
- Minimum tillage i.e. one cross ploughing is enough. After application of fertilizers+ FYM sow the seeds and do one planking after sowing the seeds to check loss of soil moisture. Minimum tillage reduces cost of cultivation and conserve the soil.

Manures & Fertilizers 20:40:40 kg/ha
- To improve soil structure and health apply compost or FYM @ 4-5t/ha at least 15 days before sowing.
  - If SSP IS USED (Recommended)
    - Urea 43.5 kg/ha as basal
    - SSP- 250 kg/ha as basal
    - MOP- 67 Kg/ha as basal
  - IF DAP IS USED
    - Urea-9.5 kg/ha as basal
    - DAP - 87.0 kg/ha as basal
    - MOP- 67 Kg/ha as basal

Irrigation
- Generally lentil is grown as un irrigated crop in the residual soil moisture but irrigation at pod (tharak panba hourakpa) development stage helps in getting more yield

Harvesting
- Harvesting of lentil is done by sickles when pods turn to straw colour.

Yield
- A well managed crop may yield about 10-12 quintals(1000-1200 Kg) of grain per hectare.

POINTS TO PONDER:
1. Spray DAP @ 20 gm per liter of water.
   (Soak the DAP overnight and dissolve in water by rubbing with hands and spray it after straining )
2. Irrigating the field by flooding in early stage cause damage to crop. The ideal time for irrigation is pod formation stage and best method for irrigation is use of sprinkler which also saves substantial quantity of irrigation water.
3. Planting should be complete by November otherwise yield will be decreased and sometimes deterioration of grain quality occurs due to rain at maturity stage. This occurs mainly in late sown crops.