

PACKAGE AND PRACTICES OF OIL PALM

Dr. Rebecca Lalmuanpuii, Scientist (Agro-forestry), KVK, Kolasib District, Mizoram

Climate and Temperature: 1800mm to 3000mm rainfall, 22°C to 24°C Mini. Tempt. and 29°C to 33°C Maxi. Tempt., sufficient temperature atleast 5 hours a day, above 80% RH.

Soil: Can be grown in any type of soil, but do best on deep loamy alluvial soil, well drained, rich in organic matter and well balanced soil pH.

Planting season: During May, June and July

Age of seedlings for planting: A healthy seedlings of 1 year old, 1m in height, 20-25cm girth at collar region and around having 12 functional leaves.

Plant population: Can accommodate 143 plants in 1 ha, 57 plants in 1 acre.

Planting distance: Plant at a spacing of 9mX 9mX 9m following Equilateral triangular system.

Pit size: 60cmX 60cmX 60cm DBH, pit to be filled up with 400g SSP, 50g Phorate mix with soil before planting.

Planting method: Polythene bag should be taken off, the seedlings to be planted with the soil, irrigation must be given right after planting.

Irrigation management: 100 litres to 350 litres depending upon the crop season, it needs plenty supply of Water for healthy and quality FFB

Fertilizer management: Requires adequate and balanced nutrient, 50kg to 100 kgs of Manures/FYM after 3 months of planting. Table showing requirements of fertilizer after 1 year of planting. (Source:IIOPR, Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh)

Age of plant	1 plant/ year (in gm)			
	Nitrogen (Urea)	Phosphorous (SSP)	Potassium (MOP)	Magnesium sulphate
1 st year	400gm	200gm	400gm	125gm
2 nd year	800gm	400gm	800gm	250gm
3 rd year	1200gm	600gm	1200gm	500gm

Fertilizers are to be splitted into 4 doses and to be given at 3 months interval at a distance of 50 cm from the main trunk.

Basin making: 1m from the main trunk in the 1st year and 2m in 2nd year.

Weed management: Weeding should be done at regular interval, use 750ml to 1000ml of Glyphosate/Paraquat for 1 ha, 2,4-D, 2,4,5-t, Dalopan and TCA are not recommended.

Intercropping, Cover cropping and Mulching: Intercropping with pineapple, banana, turmeric, groundnut, pulses and legumes, sesamum etc can be intercropped during the 3 initial years. Cover cropping and mulching should be done to cover the soil and to retain moisture in the soil. Green manuring also helps in conserving soil fertility.

Ablation: Removing of the first FFB from the plant.

Harvesting time: When the fruit colour changes from purple to orange colour, and the single fruit could easily fallen off from the bunch.

