

INDIGO FERA

BOTANICAL NAME	:-	Indigofera tinctoria
FAMILY	:-	Fabaceae
LOCAL NAME	:-	Indigo
HINDI NAME	:-	Nilikaa



HABITS AND HABITATS :-

Perennial shrub, cultivated in most part of India

PLANTS DESCRIPTION :-

Shrub about 2-3 feet, erect, pubescent. Leaves are compoundly pinnated, leaflet is 5-6 pairs, oblong –ovate shaped, slightly decreasing in size toward the apex of the leaves. Flowers in raceme, shorter than the leaves, rose in colour. Seed about 10 numbers, cylindrical, truncated at both ends.

PARTS USED :-

Whole plant

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES :-

Used in treating diseases like asthma, epilepsy, lumbago, nervous disorders, ulcer, piles, burns, leucoderma, enlargement of liver and spleen etc. leaf is used in blemorrhagia, root and stem used as expectorant, febrifuge and anti-tumour. It is also hair growth promoter.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-

Plant contains indicine, flavonoids, apigenin, kaemferol, luteolin and quercetin

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-

Prepare the soil to fine tilt by ploughing two or three times. Seeds are very small and the seed rate is 3 kg/ha. Seeds require pretreatment for good germination, as the seed coat is hard. Seeds are mixed with sand and ground gently to break the seed coat. An alternate method for enhancing germination is dipping the seeds in boiling water for a second. After pre-treatment seeds are broadcasted. Broadcast the seeds preferably mixed with sand 2-3 times its volume to ensure uniform coverage. Seeds germinate within a week. The best time for sowing is September-October. Apply cattle manure at the rate of 10 t/ha as basal dressing and incorporate into soil along with last ploughing. Weeding has to be done twice, three weeks and six weeks after sowing. Plants start flowering 2-3 months after sowing. Harvesting is done by cutting the plants at this time, at a height of about 10 cm from ground level. Irrigate plants after harvest. Subsequent harvests can be made at 1.5-2 months interval. Four to five cuttings can be taken in a year depending on the growth. A few plants per plot are left without cutting to set seeds. Ripe pods are to be harvested in the early morning to prevent loss of seeds by shattering during harvest