

Crop 17
Cowpea
Vigna unguiculata

- Lobia
 - It is cultivated throughout the tropics and sub-tropics
 - Major area is in Africa
 - Cultivated for varying purposes
 - Specific area production productivity not available
- Origin
 - Africa, introduced to other countries
- In India
 - Cultivated in about 0.5 million ha
 - Karnataka, AP, UP, Bihar
- It is mostly raised as a mixed crop along with cereals and oilseeds
- Climatic requirement
 - Primarily tropical crop
 - Can tolerate moderate amount of drought and shade
 - Some indeterminate types are also available
 - Requires long day condition for better growth
- Plant
 - Short, semi-erect, spreading habit
 - Strong tap root with nodulation
 - Pods may be curved or straight or coiled
 - Weight of grain varies from 50-300mg, mostly around 100-120mg
- Varieties
 - CO2, 3, 4, 6
 - KM1, VBN 1 & 2, Paiyur 2
 - C 152 all India
- Seed rate & Spacing
 - 20 kg
 - 30 x 15cm, 45 x 15cm
- Other managements
 - Almost similar to blackgram / greengram
 - Nutrient management
 - 20kg K₂O may be for lateritic soils
 - Irrigation
 - IW/CPE ratio at 0.8 is more suitable
 - Harvest
 - Matured pods for grain
 - For vegetables tender green pods
- Cropping systems
 - Mostly as mixed crop
 - Sole crop

- Rice-wheat-cowpea
- Pearlmillet -wheat-cowpea
- Pigeonpea -wheat-cowpea
- Rice-mustard-cowpea
- Cowpea-wheat -greengram