

Onion

Intercultural Operations

Weed Control

The field should be kept weed-free, especially in the initial stage of plant growth, as weeds compete with the crop and reduce the yield drastically. Being closely planted and a shallow rooted crop, hand weeding particularly when crop is in full vegetative stage, is difficult and expensive. It is recommended to use weedicide along with one hand weeding at critical stage. Application of Fluchloralin or Oxyfluorfen @ 15ml/10 litres of water 3 days after transplanting followed by one hand weeding 45 days after transplanting effectively controls the weed population. Alternatively, application of Pendimethalin (3.5 litres/ha) immediately after transplanting and before the first irrigation coupled with one hand weeding gives the best results.

Rotation and Mixed Cropping

Onion crop should follow the vegetable crops such as cauliflower, tomato and potato, which require large quantities of organic manures. As a winter crop, it follows cereals, groundnut and cowpea while as a summer crop it follows paddy. When cultivated as monsoon or late monsoon crop, coriander, french bean, sorghum, pearl millet, chillies, and groundnut are planted after harvesting onion. During the initial five months after planting sugarcane, onion is grown as an inter-crop.