

Harvesting

All these three varieties can be harvested within 60-70 days after seed sowing. It should be harvested before the roots become bitter, and pith development. Roots can be manually uprooted. Bajo Laphu 2, bajo laphu3, and Bajo laphu 4, yields about 21t/ac, 24t/ac, and 22t/ac respectively.



Cropping Calendar

		Altitude (masl)			Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
		Below 1200	1200-1800	1800-3500												
Planting																
Harvesting																



Cultivation practices of Bajo laphu 2, Bajo laphu 3 & Bajo laphu 4



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Background

Radish is most consumed and popular cool season vegetable crop grown in Bhutan. With roots being main economic parts, even the leaves of radish can be consumed for vegetable as well as salad purposes. Radish is good for weight loss, liver, gall bladder, urinary tract infection and digestion disorder. Department of Agriculture currently have three radish varieties namely Spring SPTN, Minowase and Bajo Laphu, available for cultivation by our farmers. With the introduction of three additional varieties, Bajo Laphu2, Bajo Laphu 3, and bajo laphu 3, radish varieties in the country will be diversified. These three improved radish varieties are open pollinated and high yielding varieties introduced from Japan during Integrated Horticulture Promotion Project period. Non pungent and splendid flavored varieties, all three varieties can be suitably grown in autumn and early spring season.

Climate

These three varieties can suitably be up to 3500masl in autumn and early spring. Best grown at 15-27°C, exposure of the plants to high temperature leads to the bolting, and pith development in roots.

Soil

Heavy soil should be avoided, as it results in the forking and mishappen roots which is not desirable. Friable and sandy loam is preferred for good root development. It should be grown in the Ph range of 6-7

Field Preparation

Field should be prepared 15-30 days prior to planting of radish. Soil should be thoroughly ploughed and brought to fine tilth. Add well decomposed FYM, and Suphala during the field preparation. 15-20cm raise beds of 1M width and of the convenient length bed should be prepared.

Sowing methods

Radish is direct seeded crop, and its sowing time differs depending upon the varieties, season and the locations. Seeds should be sown 2-3 cm deeper the size of the seed size. Prepare two lines on 1 M bed which is spaced at 40-45 cm, and then spot sowing of the radish seeds spaced at 20-25cm between the plants is recommended. Broadcasting of seeds thinly on the already prepared lines on the bed can also be carried out.



Irrigation

Irrigate immediately after seed sowing, and then it is recommended to irrigate twice a week after planting.

Thinning

Depending upon the moisture and soil temperature, it germinates within 3-7 days after sowing. When the seedlings had 4-5 main leaves, first thinning of the plants by maintaining 7-10cm between the plants is recommended. After one month of the first thinning, do second thinning of the plants by maintaining 20-25cm spacing between the plants.

Manures and Fertilizers

Apply 1kg/ decimal Suphala and 50kg/ decimal FYM during field preparation. Top dress the plants with 0.5kg/decimal Suphala one month after planting during first thinning.

Plant Protection

Aphids, cabbage butterfly, and bacterial soft was commonly found infecting the crop.

Cabbage butterfly larvae feed on the tender leaves and skeletonize the leaves

Management

Pick and destroy the larva when observed. Keep the field weed free and remove alternate host. Spray pesticides (0.1%) cypermethrin/ Imidachlorpid

