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Harvest of cucumber brisk

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Summer crop: Farmers harvesting cucumber at Azhagiya Manavalam near Tiruchi.— Photo: B.Velankanni Raj

Cucumber is the most needed produce during the summer. Harvest of cucumber has been brisk in parts of the district. Farmers have been harvesting it for the past couple of weeks. Those who cultivate the crop say they have to adopt crop protection strategy for harvesting quality cucumber. The expenditure was anywhere between Rs. 20,00 and Rs. 22,000 for reaping quality crop.

P. Subramanian, a farmer of Azhagiya Manavalam, says he had raised the crop on about three-fourths of an acre and could realise a good harvest.

The crop is usually raised during 'Thai' pattam coinciding with the second or third week of January and is ready for harvest from the 55th day. Every flower turns into cucumber, he says explaining the abundant growth of flowers in his fields. The crop can be harvested daily and is readily marketed in Tiruchi.

P. Ganesan, another farmer, says that the crop should be irrigated properly at least three times a week. Supply of fertiliser is equally important.

"Fertiliser, groundnut cake and castor cake is applied periodically to protect cucumber from any pest attack and to ensure its growth," they said. Although people prefer tender and smaller cucumber, it is the large-sized cucumber which is more delicious.

While smaller cucumber is marketed at bus stands and highways, large-sized cucumber is sold at restaurants.

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