

Pigeon pea is one of the promising crops for drier areas of Fiji. It is exported as green pod to New Zealand and Canada and green tender peas to Australia. The green and dry peas can be cooked in many different dishes and are very nutritious, having about 20% protein. Pigeon pea is one of the leguminous crop that fixes atmospheric nitrogen and enriches the soil. There are two types of pigeon pea called photoperiod sensitive (seasonal) and photoperiod non-sensitive (round the year production). Good pest control is necessary to achieve high yields and quality produce.

1. New Improved Varieties

- Uasivi - non-seasonal for greenpod.
- Sharvada - non-seasonal for dhal.
- Bharpur - non-seasonal for dhal.

2. Other recommended Varieties

- Vikram - seasonal for greenpod
- Kamica - seasonal for Dhal.
- Pragati - all year round production for



greenpod & dhal.

3. Seed Rate and Expected Yield

Variety	Seed rate/ha	Greenpod yield/ha	Dry seed yield/ha
Uasivi	20kg	5 to 6 tonnes	-
Pragati	20kg	4 to 5 tonnes	2.0 to 2.5 tonnes
Vikram	25kg	2 to 3 tonnes	-
Kamica	30kg	-	1.5 to 2 tonnes
Sharvada	18kg	-	2.5 to 3.0 tonnes
Bharpur	23kg	-	2.0 to 2.5 tonnes

4. Soil Requirements

Wide ranges of soil types are suitable but good drainage is necessary.

5. Planting Time

Kamica and Vikram are photoperiod sensitive (seasonal). Therefore planting from January to June is recommended. Uasivi, Sharvada, Bharpur and Pragati are photoperiod non-sensitive (non-seasonal) and can be planted anytime of the year. (However avoid planting late in the year where flowering will take place in wetter months thus reducing yields).

6. Land Preparation

Pigeon pea thrives well in well drained soil with fine tilth. It is a crop that can be successfully cultivated on flatland as well as on slopes.

7. Method of Planting

Direct sowing in rows. Place one or two seeds 10cm to 20cm apart in rows and cover the seeds lightly with soil.

8. Planting Density

Fertile soils – 65cm between rows and 20cm within rows.

Poor soils – 65cm between rows and 10cm within rows.

Seed germinates at 5 to 7 days after sowing.

9. Fertilizer Requirement

- a. A mixture of Blend A & B at 200kg/ha of each blend applied as basal. (Lower rates on more fertile soil) or
- b. Foliar application of molybdenum (1kg/ha) at 2wks and 5wks after planting on red soils only.
- c. Foliar application of BioBrew growth at the rate of 400ml/20L knapsack at 6 leaf stage.
- d. Apply BioBrew harvest at the rate



of 400ml/20L of water from flowering onwards every fortnight.

10. Weed Control

Hoing or mechanical inter-row cultivation can be done as and when required.

11. Pest Control

Pod Borer (*Maruca testulalis*) - spray Lannate at 25mls/15L of water or Spray Phyrethroids at 40ml/15L (Sold as Attack). Spray only during the flowering time and as and when required. Regular inspection of the pest during flowering and after each harvest is necessary.

12. Disease Control

Damping off attacks seedlings 1 - 3 weeks old. Infected plants rapidly wilt and die. Spray Benomyl at 10g/15L of water. (Sold as Benlate) or Mancozeb at 50g/15L of water. All diseased plants should be destroyed and practice crop rotation.

13. Harvesting and Processing

Handpick green filled pods as vegetable for local or export market. Use sickle to harvest mature dry pods with stem and sun dry. Thresh, winnow and further sun dry the seeds for storage. For long storage coat seeds with a thin layer of coconut oil to prevent weevils from attacking.

14. Quality Control for Export

To ensure a quality harvest, pest control is essential with right time of harvesting.

15. Gross margin

For 4tonnes/ha Green at \$3.50/kg:

Income	-	\$14,000
Expenses	-	\$3,190
G.M	-	\$10,810

For 2tonnes/ha Dry at \$4.00/kg:

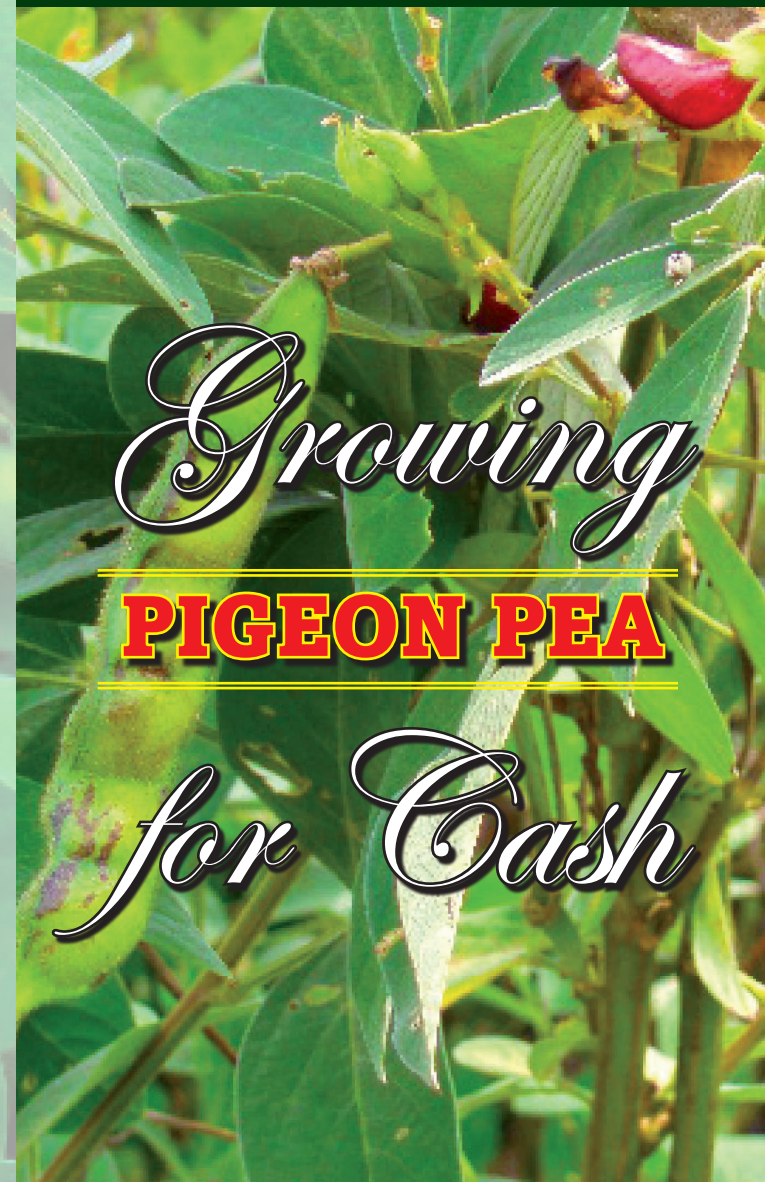
Income	-	\$8,000
Expenses	-	\$3,917
G.M	-	\$4,083



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Ministry of Agriculture



Growing

PIGEON PEA

for Cash

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