Cowpea is an important legume of the tropics with its various uses such as grains, vegetable, fodder and as cover crop. The plant parts that are used for food are nutritious, providing proteins, vitamins and minerals. Another important feature of cowpea is, it fixes atmospheric nitrogen and enriches the soil.

Cowpea is also exported to New Zealand and Canada as green pods and to Australia as peeled and frozen green peas.

1. **Recommended Varieties**
   - Mana - preferred for export
   - Tara - preferred for export
   - Rachna - for local consumption
   - Shikhar - for local consumption

2. **Seed rate and Expected Yield (per hectare)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Seed rate/ha</th>
<th>Green pod yield/ha</th>
<th>Dry seed yield/ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mana</td>
<td>28kg</td>
<td>3 to 4 tonnes</td>
<td>1.5 to 2.0 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara</td>
<td>20kg</td>
<td>5 to 7 tonnes</td>
<td>2.0 to 2.5 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachna</td>
<td>23kg</td>
<td>5 to 6 tonnes</td>
<td>2.5 to 3.0 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shikhar</td>
<td>25kg</td>
<td>4 to 5 tonnes</td>
<td>2.0 to 2.5 tonnes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Soil Requirements**
   - Wide range of soil types are suitable but good drainage is necessary.

4. **Planting Time**
   - Cowpeas can be planted from February to October. Planting during wetter months (Nov-Jan) will result in heavy vegetation, late flowering and reduced yields.

5. **Planting Density**
   - Fertile soils – 65cm between rows and 30cm within rows.
   - Poor soil – 65cm between rows and 20cm within rows.

6. **Method of Planting**
   - Direct sowing in rows. Place one or two seeds 20 to 30cm apart in rows and cover the seeds lightly with soil.

7. **Fertilizer Requirement**
   1. A mixture of Blend A & B at 200kg/ha of each blend applied as basal. (Lower rates on more fertile soil).
   2. Foliar application of BioBrew growth at the rate of 300ml/15L of water at 6 leaf stage.
   3. Apply BioBrew harvest at the rate of 300ml/15L of water from flowering onwards every fortnight.

8. **Weed Control**
   - Hoeing or mechanical interrow cultivation can be done as and when required.

9. **Pest Control**
   1. Spray Lannate at 25ml in 15litres of water to control pod borer (Maruca testulalis) or spray Phyrethroids at...
For long storage, seeds maybe coated with a thin layer of cooking oil (3ml/100g of seeds) to prevent weevils from attacking.

13. Gross Margin
For 6 tonnes/ha Green at $3/kg:
Income - $18,000
Expenses - $3,900
G.M - $14,100
For 2 tonnes/ha Dry at $3.00/kg:
Income - $6,000
Expenses - $3,414
G.M - $2,586

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.

2. Aphids, Maruca, Leaf Miners and other pests - apply Dimethioate at 15ml/15L of water (Sold as Rogor) or Suncis at 12ml/15L of water

10. Disease Control
Cercospora leaf spot, Round spots, red-dish brown or purple in color. Not often seen until flowering.
Chemical Control:
Apply Benomyl at 10g/15L of water. (Sold as Benlate) or Mancozeb at 50g/15L of water or Bravo at 45ml/15L of water.
Cultural Control:
Crop rotation and general field sanitation is recommended. Use clean seeds.

11. Maturity
Mana – 65 to 70 days
Tara – 65 to 70 days
Rachna – 55 to 60 days
Shikhar – 55 to 60 days

12. Harvesting and Storage
Handpick green filled tender pods as vegetable for local or export market. The dry pods are also handpicked, dried, threshed, winnowed and seeds sun dried for storage.