

# **Commercial tomato farming through greenhouse technology -Part 1**

Many horticultural farmers have embraced green house as they are controlled environment. As a farmer, you need to get everything right to be able to have a successful investment.

The advantage of doing green house for vegetable production is one is able to control climate and temperature. Diseases and pests can also be controlled. Tomato plant requires different temperatures depending on its stage of growth so you can be able to adjust in the green house and control pest and disease.

## **Variety of tomatoes**

There are two types of tomatoes grown in green house: the determinate and un determinate. Determinate are those that have flowers and grown once. Un determinate are those that continue flowering and can be harvested continually over a long period of time.

It's advisable that farmers get the right variety suitable for green house to save on time and money. Differentiate the variety that is grown in open and one that is grown in green house.

## **Controlling pests**

Pests are monitored using traps. The structure is cleaned by spraying with insecticides. Propagation of seedlings should be in bigger pot so that plants do not compete for nutrients.

The cockpit is used to to ensure nutrients are balanced. It is buffed using calcium nitrate and filled to a pot. The seeds

are sown 1 or 2 cm below the surface for easy germination. Germination occurs 7-10 days after the seeds are sown and they are fed with fertilizer solution.

## **Transplanting**

Before transplanting, disinfect the green house to ensure the environment is free from pest and disease. Plants are watered and fed with fertilizer using a drip line.

Spacing of 40 by 60 cm is used between the crops in a zig zag line to provide enough space. A fertilizer solution is used to provide nutrients for the plants. A low AC of 2.5 to be used when the plants are young and increased gradually overtime.