

Jack fruit farming

Jack fruit farming has gained popularity due to its economic potential, nutritional value and sustainability. The tree provides numerous products including the edible fruits, seeds and timber making it a good option for both small scale and commercial farming.

Growth requirements

Jack fruits require warm humid climate and well drained soils. They thrive in an area with an annual rainfall of 1500 to 2500mm.

The location should be one that receive ample sunlight and is protected from strong winds.

Cultivation practices

Propagation. Jackfruit can be propagated from seeds, grafting or budding. Seeds from ripe fruits are commonly used for planting although grafting onto rootstock can ensure consistent fruit quality.

Planting. Prepare the planting hole by digging a hole twice the size of the root ball. Place the seedling at the same depth as it was in the nursery. Space the trees at a spacing of 8 to 10 meters apart to allow for proper growth.

Regularly water especially during the tree's early years. Mulching can help the soil retain moisture and prevent weed growth.

Fertilization. Apply balanced NPK fertilizer along with organic matter to promote healthy growth and fruit development. Fruit flies, aphids and mealy bugs are the major pests of jack fruit. Regular monitoring and use of organic or chemical pesticides can help control the pests.

Harvesting is done majorly after 3 to 4 years and is done when the fruit changes color majorly from green to yellow and gives off a strong aroma.