

Ultimate Guide to Cardamom (Elaichi) Farming

Successful cardamom farming requires dedication and meticulous attention to detail. To get started, follow these steps:

1. **Selecting the Right Location:** Find a suitable location with a tropical climate, preferably in high-altitude regions. Cardamom thrives in temperatures between 18-35 degrees Celsius with moderate rainfall. Ensure well-drained soil and provide partial shade to protect the plants from harsh sunlight.
2. **Choosing the Right Variety:** Select a cardamom variety that aligns with your preferences and the market demand in your region. Cardamom plants prefer loamy soil with good organic content. Ensure proper drainage to prevent waterlogging.
3. **Nursery Preparation:** Begin by sowing cardamom seeds in raised nursery beds or pots filled with well-drained potting mix. Later, transplant the seedlings, spacing them 2-3 feet apart to allow for proper growth.
4. **Proper Watering:** Water the cardamom plants regularly, especially during dry periods. Applying mulch will help retain moisture and control weeds.
5. **Maintaining Hygiene and Ventilation:** To reduce the risk of diseases, such as fungal infections, maintain a clean and well-ventilated environment around your cardamom plants.
6. **Harvesting:** Cardamom plants typically take 2-3 years to mature and start producing pods. Harvest the green pods carefully, taking care not to damage them.
7. **Drying:** Dry the harvested pods in the shade until they reach the desired moisture level.
8. **Processing:** After drying, remove the outer husks from the dried pods to obtain the seeds. Sort the seeds by

size and quality.

9. **Market Your Product:** Depending on market demand, you can sell cardamom either as whole pods, seeds, or in powder form.