



AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center

Fact Sheet

Saving Seeds of Kangkong

Production

Kangkong or water convolvulus (*Ipomoea* spp.) can be grown successfully both as a leafy vegetable crop or for seed production under tropical conditions. For seed production, kangkong prefers a long period of warm weather and good irrigation. Kangkong can be planted on any type of soil, but prefers a slightly acidic soil as long as there is adequate sunlight and water. Lowland plantings give higher seed yields than do upland plantings, but take 5–6 months to complete the seed cycle.

Isolation

Kangkong is considered to be a self-pollinated crop, but cross-pollination may occur. Isolate varieties 100 m apart.

Selection

Select plants that are vigorous, disease-free and uniform in plant characteristics.

Harvesting

When seed pods are mature (Fig. 1), uproot plants when dry weather is expected for several days.

Processing

Remove plant roots with a hoe, and keep plants in the field for a few days to ensure that all the seeds will mature at the same time. The plant mat will then curl into a loose bundle. Each day, turn the bundles several times so they dry uniformly (Fig. 2). After 3–4 days of drying, the plants should be fully dry and ready for threshing. Use an appropriate mechanical thresher, such as a belt thresher (Fig. 3). After threshing, the seed should be cleaned by winnowing.

Storage

Kangkong seed will store for up to two years, a shorter time compared to most vegetable crops. Storage pests are a problem if seed moisture content is high. Place seeds in jars, manila envelopes, cloth or mesh bags, plastic containers, or foil envelopes. The best containers are air-tight, such as a sealed glass jar, metal can, or foil envelope. Protect seed from sunlight.

Store seeds in a cool (below 15 °C is ideal), dry location. Place the seeds in a refrigerator for long-term storage. For short-term storage, keep the seeds in a cool, shady and dry place.

References

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- Rashid, M.A. and D.P. Singh. 2000. A manual of seed production in Bangladesh. AVRDC-USAID-Bangladesh Project. Joydebpur, Gazipur, Bangladesh.
- Sukprakarn, S. 1993. Kangkong seed production. In: Vegetable seed production. Department of Agricultural Extension, Thailand.



Figs. 1–3. Mature seed pods (left); rolling plants seed plants into loose bundles