



AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center

Fact Sheet

Saving Seeds of Mungbean

Production

Mungbean (*Vigna radiata*) can be grown all year round but for seed production it should be planted in the dry season or late rainy season. Growing mungbean after the rainy season is usually the most suitable time; however, you should follow the recommended cultural practices of the extension office in your own location.

Isolation

Mungbean is a self-pollinated crop, but some cross-pollination can occur. An isolation distance of 3 m is usually enough.

Selection

Off-type plants should be removed as plants develop. Seed should be harvested from disease-free, vigorous plants.



Fig. 1. Mature pods ready for harvesting

Harvesting

Harvest pods when they have matured and turned dark (Fig. 1) and before they start shattering (Fig. 2). Small areas are usually harvested by hand. For plantings that mature over a wide interval of time, harvesting may need to be carried out two or three times.

Processing

Threshing must be done as soon as the pods are dry. Beat pods with a stick until pods are opened, or put dry pods in a burlap bag, place the bag on the floor, and walk on it. Remove any foreign materials by winnowing. Sun dry for 3–5 days. Collect only good seeds (free from diseases, seed coat cracking, split, or immature). If using a threshing machine, adjust the speed of the machine in order to avoid seed damage.



Fig. 2. Shattered pods

Storage

Dried seeds can be safely stored for at least three years. 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

- Kelly, A.F. and R.A.T. George. 1998. Encyclopaedia of seed production of world crops. New York: John Wiley & Sons.
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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.