Cultivation Practices in Mango

Planting:

Planting area should be ploughed and harrowed. Pits of 60cm³ size are to be opened with recommended spacing. Pits are to be filled with equal quantity of top soil and FYM along with 3 to 4 kg. of Neem cake. Planting of grafted plants to be taken in July – August (on set of monsoon) and staking is provided.

Crop Care:

- During rainy season keep the interspaces clean.
- Cultivation of inter crops like cowpea, Jute and horsegram helps in soil fertility.
- Under irrigation facility cultivate different vegetables as inter crop.
- Every year prepare the basin around the tree and apply recommended dose of fertilizers.
- Keep basin free from weeds.

Pruning

- Pruning to remove criss –cross branches may be done so that center of the tree is opened out and inner branches are exposed to sunlight. Pruning of the dried twigs and branches should be done with pruning saw during June-July. Pruning in mango encourages production of new shoots.

Irrigation:

- Mango responds well to irrigation, particularly at fruit set and developmental phases. The young plants at bearing stage should be irrigated frequently.

- In bearing trees, for obtaining good flowering, irrigation must be stopped at least 2 months before flowering period. Stopping of irrigation creates stress and encourages flower bud formation.
• Irrigation should be given at fruit set and thereafter at regular intervals during fruit development period, beginning from fruit set stage to full development stage.
• For better quality, irrigation should be stopped 20-30 days before maturity/harvesting the crop.
• As far as possible irrigation should be give with drip system. Drip irrigation not only conservers water but also increases water use efficiency.
• For conservation of rain water, rows (in rectangular system of planting) should be along the contour in sloppy locations.

**Top Working:**

• Top working is done to replace the inferior seedling mango by know variety. The trees are beheaded upto 1.5 m height in August to September months i.e., after receding of heavy rainy. Allow 4-5 vigorous shoots to grow. Grafting on the shoots is done by veneer grafting on the shoots of pencil thickness. Once the graft is successful, remove the shoots arising from the seedling tree. Prune the new shoots to get more branches. The young shoots arising from grafts should be protected.