

System of Krain Krain Cultivation in Sierra Leone

Conventional cultivation of krain krain -- a popular green leafy vegetable (*Corchorus*) -- starts with the broadcasting of seeds randomly on raised beds (mounds) or on flat land with high seed density (direct seeding), with manure added from backyard compost or FYM. Harvesting the crop is by uprooting the whole plant, so it is done just once. There is a single hand weeding done or most times no weeding. The farmer needs to buy seeds in the market at relatively high cost, and there is little assurance of quality.



System of Krain Krain Intensification (SKKI) uses the following: Less seeds, more organic matter, wide spacing between plants, transplanting young seedlings between 8 to 15 days old, and overhead mulching. The crop is harvested twice, the first time by cutting/pruning branches of the plant at a point which leaves at least two other branches for fast re-growth and for collecting seeds at the end, so farmers can replant with their own seed. Weeding / earthing up / soil aeration of the crop is done every 7 days. This promotes robust root and plant growth and results in more robust leaves as well as very big pods of seeds at the end to be harvested. Pictures below show the matured crop, the regrown ratoon crop, and the matured pods with seeds.





Seedlings 1 week and 2 weeks old after transplanting, and a week after the shed is removed

Three weeks after transplanting and almost ready for the first harvest.



Report by Gerald Aruna, ENGIM Internazionale, Lunsar, Sierra Leone