



SUMMER MOONG: ADOPT SOWING WITH HAPPY SEEDER OR ZERO-DRILL

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Conservation agriculture-based technologies like wheat sowing with happy seeder or zero-drill are becoming increasingly popular among the farmers owing to economic and ecological benefits. After the harvest of wheat and before the transplanting of rice, the land remains fallow at least for 60-65 days. A low input, short duration, high-value crop, mungbean fits very well into rice-wheat cropping systems and maybe grown during this period as a cash crop. The window period between the harvesting of wheat crop and sowing of summer moong is very short. The conventional method of mungbean sowing involves field preparation which is time-consuming and results in delayed sowing of summer moong. Timely sowing of summer mungbean is possible after manual or combined harvesting of wheat through zero-tillage technology. If there is no wheat straw lying in the field like in manual harvesting of wheat, summer moong can be sown without any tillage operations with the zero-till drill. In the combined harvested wheat field with the straw load, summer moong can be sown with a happy seeder without any delay.

Benefits of growing zero-tillage summer mungbean

- 1. Adding mungbean crop after wheat harvest will increase farm income and improve soil productivity (fix nitrogen into the soil) for sustainability of agriculture.*
- 2. Zero-tillage sowing saves money, energy and time required for field preparation.*
- 3. Happy seeder moong fields retains better moisture, organic matter promoting higher microbial activity.*
- 4. After picking of pods of summer moong, burying of its stover before transplanting of rice also helps to increase the paddy yield and in reducing the nitrogen requirement of rice by one-third.*
- 5. Growing summer moong also helps in reducing the loss of soil organic carbon due to higher temperature during the months of May and June.*

Improved varieties like SML 1827, SML 832, and SML 668 can be sown with zero-tillage technology by using 15 kg seed for SML 668 and 12 kg seed per acre for other varieties after the harvest of wheat. Inoculate the seed with a single packet of consortium biofertilizer at the time of sowing.



Sow the crop in rows 22.5 cm apart. Apply 5 kg of N (11 kg urea) along with 16 kg P₂O₅ (100 kg of superphosphate) per acre at the time of sowing. Generally, 3-4 irrigations are required by the crop depending upon the soil type, time, and intensity of rainfall. Apply first irrigation 25 days after sowing and do not irrigate the field later than 55 days after sowing for uniform maturity of the crop.