An erect profusely branched aromatic, annual upto 1.5 M high. Flowers in racemes, root well developed.

COMMON NAMES: Coleus, Makkari beru

## DISTRIBUTION:

Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh.

PART USED: Roots

## CULTIVATION:

## SOIL AND CLIMATE

It grows well in red sandy loam soil. A soft soil having pH 5.5-7 with low moisture contains is reported to be ideal for rich growth of plants. Plants grow well in hot, humid climate and tropical and sub tropical situation under irrigation.

## NURSERY RAISING AND PLANTING

Coleus can be grown by seeds and cuttings both. The plants are best raised from stem cuttings. Ten to Twelve centimetres long stem selected and planted in well manured nursery bed during May- June months. The cuttings initiate sprouting and grow well within a months. These rooted plants are suitable for planting in the field during rainy seasons (July-August) at the distance of $20 \times 20 \mathrm{~cm}$. Approximately 33,600 stem cuttings are required for One acre of land.

## WEEDING \& HOEING

Weeding and hoeing is to be done at regular interval.

## MANURES AND FERTILISERS

Compost/ FMY four (4) tons/acre is required.

## IRRIGATION

Watering is necessary every third day at initial stage of plantation. After establishment of plants are to be irrigated as and when required weekly or fortnightly.

The crop matures in about 150 days under cultivation. The crop could thus be harvested in the month of November/December. During digging of plants, roots should be lifted from the soil. After digging, the roots are cleaned and cut into small pieces for convenience in drying and storage. The dried roots are stored in polythene lined gunny bags.

## YIELD

Approximately 600 to 1000 kg . dry roots/ acre.

## ECONOMICS

Net income =Rs. 50,000/- to 75,000/- per hectare. (year-2001)

Note: Market for medicinal plants is volatile and the economics may vary.

