LEAPGROW VENTURES

PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE SERIES

01

Thinking of Starting a Crop Farm?

Beginner Decision Guide

What you need to know before you start

Crop farming can be a source of food, income, employment or the beginning of a larger agribusiness. But successful farming starts long before the first seed or seedling goes into the ground.

Plan better. Farm smarter. Grow further.







- Choose the right crops
- Explore growing options
- Assess your resources
- Plan for a profitable future

EXPLORE OUR DETAILED FARMING GUIDES

Step-by-step guides for crops, livestock, systems and more.

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> "Good decisions at the beginning save time, money and many headaches later on.

Key Things to Consider

Before investing your money and time, here are the most important things you need to think about.

1 Choose What You Want to Grow

Consider crops that fit your land, water, climate, market and available resources. Different crops have different requirements, so choose what suits your situation best.

2 Understand Your Growing Options

Open field, greenhouse, containers, growbags, raised beds, hydroponics or other systems may suit different situations. Each option has advantages and limitations.

3 Assess Your Land, Space and Soil

Check drainage, slope, soil fertility, previous land use and whether your available space can support the crop you want to grow.

4 Secure a Reliable Water Source

Most crops need dependable water, especially during dry periods. Consider the source, reliability, storage options and the irrigation method you will use.

5 Understand Your Climate and Weather

Choose crops and plan your seasons based on temperature, rainfall, sunlight, altitude and seasonal risks such as drought, floods or high winds.

6 Learn the Crop's Production Cycle

Understand the full production cycle, including nutrition, pruning, training, pest and disease management, harvesting and post-harvest handling requirements.

7 Know Your Inputs and Technology Needs

List the inputs you are likely to need, such as seed, seedlings, fertilisers, manure, irrigation equipment, tools, mulch, pumps or greenhouse materials.

8 Build a Reliable Support Network

Identify input suppliers, agronomists, extension officers and experienced farmers who can guide you. A good support network can help you solve problems and avoid costly mistakes.

9 Find Your Market Before You Plant

Know who will buy your produce, the expected quality, price range and volumes, and how your produce will reach buyers (e.g. local markets, traders, processors or direct consumers).

10 Count the Real Cost

Include land preparation, seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, labour, tools, packaging, transport, marketing and working capital. Consider both initial costs and ongoing expenses.

Quick Check: Are You Ready?

- ☐ Do I know which crop(s) I want to grow?
- ☐ Do I have suitable land or growing space?
- ☐ Do I have a reliable water source?
- ☐ Have I researched my market?
- ☐ Do I understand the major costs?
- ☐ Am I starting at a manageable scale?

