



Optimal Planting Dates of Amaranth for Green Vegetable Production Targeting the Market of Pokhara

Indra Paudel and Sandesh Neupane

**Local Initiatives for Biodiversity,
Research and Development (LI-BIRD)**
www.libird.org • info@libird.org



Rationale

- Leafy vegetables are in short supply in urban areas of Nepal before the onset of monsoon season and there is great demand for it.
- If farmers around urban areas could produce vegetables for the lean season, there is scope for additional income source.
- For this we need to find vegetables that are naturally suited for this season to allow organic methods. Amaranth grows close to this period naturally.

Research Objectives

- Amaranth is found to grow naturally in Kaski and farmers may consume what grows naturally. However, there is no research on when is the right time to plant it.
- What is the suitable time for cultivating amaranth targeting the lean vegetable season in Pokhara?

Methodology

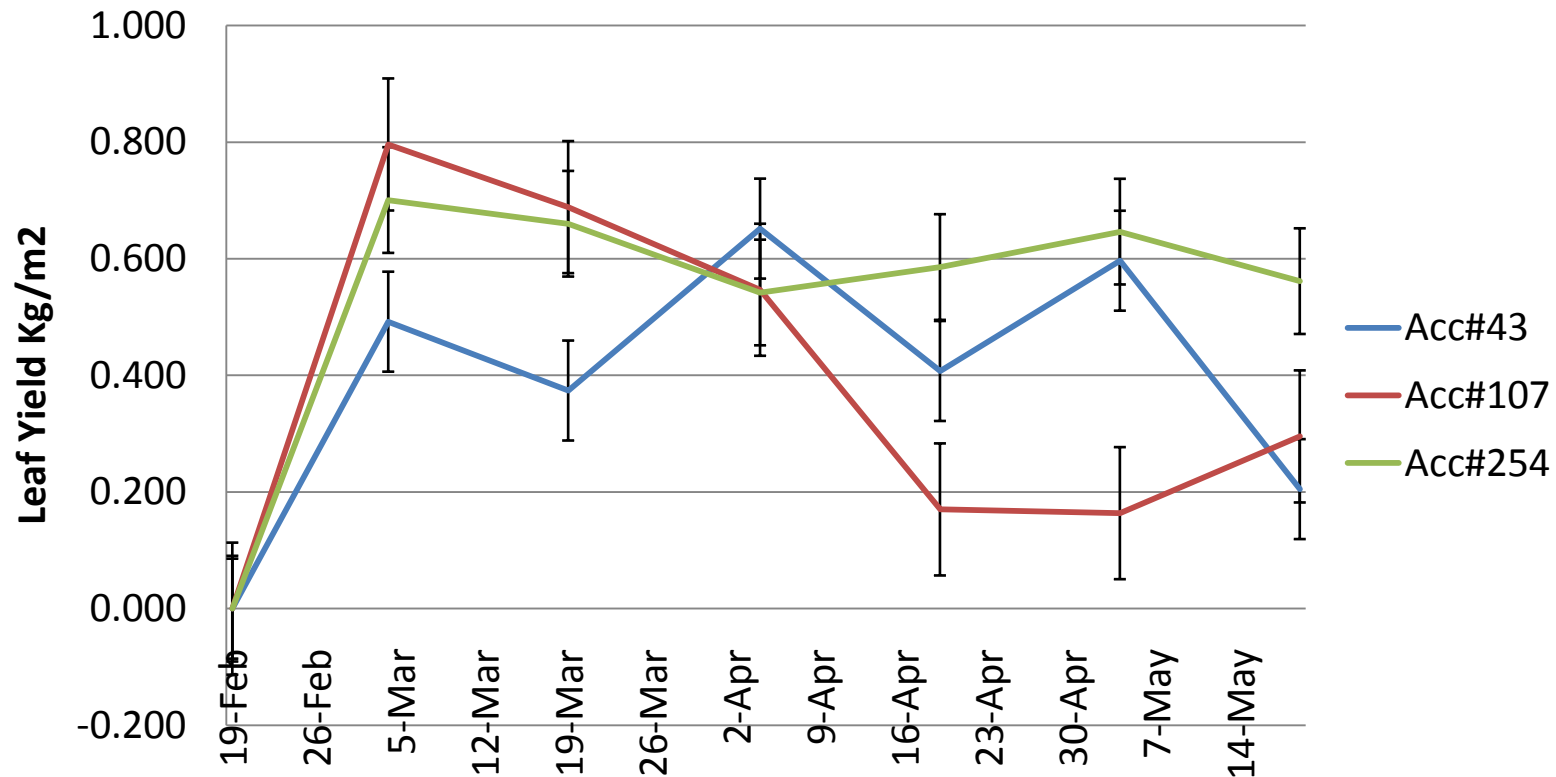


Selection of Amaranth Accession for trial:

- Three accessions are selected from previous year research (characterization trial) having higher leaf yield (Acc 53- Sindhuli, Acc 107- Dhakuta, Acc-254 Ramechhap)
- Trail was set at Pokhara
- No. of harvests over lifetime and total yield by plot recorded

Results and Discussions

Line graph showing interaction between varieties and dates of sowing with Standard Error



Vegetable Availability in Pokhara



Months	Major competing leafy vegetable species
January	Rayo, Tori, Palungo
February	Rayo, Tori, Palungo
March	Silpikan
April	Phapar ko sag
May	Niuro, Phaphar ko sag
June	Latte, Karkalo
July	Karkalo
August	Karkalo
September	Pumpkin shoots
October	Pumpkin shoots
November	Rayo
December	Rayo

Results and Discussions

- Planting from first week March to last week of April is good for green Amaranth production in Pokhara with high frequency of harvest and total leafy green yield.
- Before March, crop failed to catch growth because of chilling temperature (?).

Test Marketing



- Arba:
 - NPR 20,000 at NPR 10-25 per bunch
- Kundahar Phant:
 - NPR 7000