Betel Cultivation

Today I’m going to talk about betel cultivation. Here my objective is developed betel farmers income by giving more details. Then I hoped to give more information regarding history of betel, products made out of betel, crop management, standard quality of export & medicinal value of betel. Betel cultivation in Sri Lanka dates back to 340 B.C. Betel holds a special cultural & traditional value in our country. Betel is traditionally grown in home garden surrounding & also used for domestic needs. In modern time it is also cultivated as a main commercial crop mainly in Gampaha & Kurunegala district. The scientific name of betel is “piper betel Linn”. The betel plant originated in south & south east Asia India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam & Malaysia. The history of the betel leaf goes back to the times of the Buddhas & it is believed that it was brought from the “Naga Lokaya”. Betel is mostly cultivated in Kurunegala district. There are kind of betel we can be found in Sri Lanka. They are Maheru, Ratadalu, Galdalu, Getahodu & Metipala. The commercial product is the leaf mainly used for chewing with arecanut, skked lime & tobacco. Betel is usually planted in sunken beds. The field should be flat & well drained with good sunshine. After the land preparation, beds usually in the size of 1.2m\*7m are prepared. Beds should be sterilized by burning straw on it cuttings are planted in 30cm\*30cm pits, filled with top soil & cow dung mixture & stakes of 2-4cm diameter should be established as supports.