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 was 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 that 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.