

Snowball 16 and Khumal Jyapu for cauliflower, Wonder Ball for cabbage). They received those seeds from agro vets, agro farm, retail shop and neighbours.

Table 2 Major varieties of vegetable grown

Vegetables	Varieties	Reported yield (t/ha)	Planting time	Harvesting time
Tomato	Srijana,	70-120	Feb-Mar (spring crop)	May-July (spring)
	Sarbashrestha		Sept-Oct (autumn crop)	Dec-Feb (autumn)
Cauliflower	White Top	30-35	Sept-Oct	Dec-Jan
Cabbage	Green Coronet	45-60	Sept-Oct	Dec-Feb
Cucumber	Bhaktapur local	25-35	Feb-Mar (spring)	Apr-Jun (spring)
			Aug-Sept (autumn)	Oct-Nov (autumn)

3.3.4 Irrigation system and mulching practices

From the study area, it was found that, the majority of the respondents i.e. 55% of them used drip irrigation system and 22% of the respondents used furrow irrigation system by channel for irrigation. 16% of the respondents used sprinkler irrigation and 7% of them used flooding system by pipe line for irrigation. Farmers flood their land through pipelines which supply the irrigation water from river, pond.

Mulching was practiced by 70% of farmers, while the remaining 30% said they didn't (Figure 5; Figure 6). Straw, hay, tree leaves were some of the common materials used as organic mulch, while plastic mulch was a common material for non-organic mulching.

Drip irrigation and mulching are common in protected vegetable cultivation because they maintain soil growth, controls weed growth and improve water use efficiency (Parte et al., 2022).



Figure 5 Drip irrigation with mulching in tomato

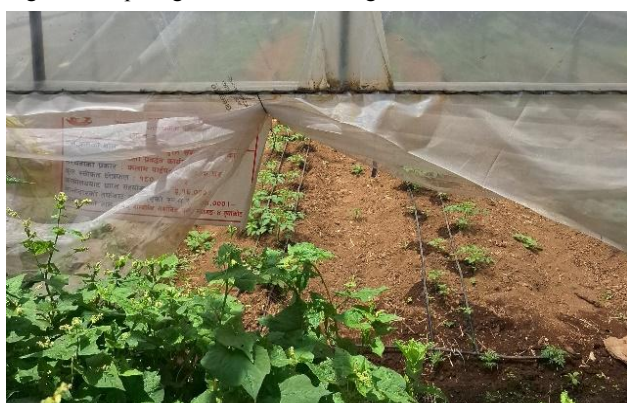


Figure 6 Drip irrigation without mulching in tomato