Money is on the ground, one watermelon after another and upto 12-17tonnes per acre & counting !

Watermelon expenses are not so high as compared to onions and tomatoes. Watermelons take about two and a half months to mature, hence I saw it as a good Venture in agriculture because there was a shortage of the time of planting to harvesting. Sometimes you find that the land you have is not the best for watermelons farming, most of the cases you have to find land which is I say I can say a virgin land, which has not been utilized.

Watermelon farming costs and expenses depends on the weather conditions for example the January February March season is very hot so it requires a lot of watering, Pest Control fungicides and fertilizer application. Therefore, expenses depend on the piece of the area you are in and type of soils. For example me I've used up to now 90,000 Kenyan shillings on starting from renting plowing to harvesting and I'm expecting about 12 tons for the first grade and about five tons for grade two. A kilogram of watermelon now goes for 17 Kenya Shillings.

Challenges

Watermelon can be harvested twice or thrice according to your climatic conditions, you are in. One of the biggest challenges I've had in watermelon farming is climate changes due to the weather patterns which have changed it has affected adversely in terms of watering insecticides have been so much in fact the prices have skyrocketed. Another challenge which has been here in watermelon farming is fertilizer prices have gone up the funky sides have gone up basically there's been inflation in all the inputs in watermelon farming.

Cost reduction

To reduce some costs you can do some work in the farm to reduce labor expense also you can substitute fertilizer with manure. For

a young farmer who want to venture into watermelon farming my advice to them will be first to maybe contact an agronomist because they are very different challenges depending on weather patterns so you need maybe to look at the type of soil because soil again matters when it comes to watermelon farming. Secondly, you can visit farmers who have been doing farming of the watermelon so that you can ask what they have been doing on the weather patterns.