

# PRODUCTION OF DIRECT SEEDED UNIHOT PEPPER IN SAND SOIL

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## Abstract

The aim of our study was to investigate the production of direct seeded Unihot pepper. In our measurements the following parameters were examined: yield, average berry weight, capsaicin and pigment content. Open field experiments were carried out at Univer Product Plc. in Szentkirály in 2018.

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## 1. Introduction

The paprika contributed significantly to the foundation of the reputation of Hungarian cuisine. Its consumption increases the production of digestive juices, thereby improving digestion.

In addition to colouring agents, sugars and essential oils play an important role in the development of the characteristic aroma and taste of paprika.

Its significant role in nutrition is enhanced by its significant vitamin C, E and B content.

Spice peppers are not only used as a spice mill for seasoning, but are also consumed in the form of different paprika preparations.

They are sweet and spicy and contain paprika and occasionally pritamin paprika (*Capsicum annuum* var. *Lycopersiforme*) [1,4,5].

Pepper is an important agricultural crop, not only because of its economic importance, but also for the nutritional value of its fruits, mainly due to the fact that they are an excellent source of natural colours and antioxidant compounds [2].

Carotenoids play an important role in fruit colouring and act as antioxidants, reacting with free radicals, mainly peroxide radicals and singlet molecular oxygen [3].

The spice paprika in sand soil is usually planted.



Figure 1: Biologically ripe berrie

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## 2. Method

The experiment was direct seeded in April 17, 2018. The plant density was 400.000 plants/ha. After the direct seeding the soil was regularly irrigated. Unihot was harvested in August 29. in 4 replicates. We harvested only the biologically ripened berries (Figure 1.) for measuring. A sample weight of 1 kg was collected from each replicate. After picking, we counted the number of berries in one kilogram sample (Figure 2.). After recording all measured data, the samples were dried in a covered place for 40 days (Figure 3). This natural desiccation process drying is a traditional Hungarian method. Before the grinding we used a second drying system. The peppers were dried at seventy degrees Celsius for one day in an industrial dryer (Figure 3). In our measurements the following parameters were examined: yield, average berry weight, capsaicin, pigment and dry matter content.



Figure 2: Measuring the fruit

## 3. Results

From our data it can be stated that Unihot is a reliable variety. In 2018 our yield data was 18,5 tons / ha. The *average weight* of the berries was 8,59 grams. The *capsaicin content* of this paprika is 878mg / kg required for the hot category. For *pigment* content, at harvest 119 ASTA was measured. The *dry matter content* at harvest reached 17,61%. Based on the requirements of the processing industry, Unihot belongs to the hot category.



Figure 3: Dried Unihot

## 4. Discussion

From our experiment it can be concluded that the direct seeding method in sand soil is good for industrial use. Despite 2018 was a very unfavorable year, our results show that Unihot can be a perfect raw material for industry.

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