Overview

Vegetable agriculture or farming is the growing of vegetables for human consumption. Traditionally, these have been small-holding or family farming enterprises, growing vegetables for their own consumption or to trade locally. As the farming of vegetables has become more common, mechanisation has played a revolutionary role and today nearly all processes are able to be performed by machine. Vegetable agriculture has been highly specialised with growers producing the particular crops that do well in their region, or by season. New methods of vegetable growing have sprung up such as hydroponics, raised or artificial growing beads and cultivation under glass or under cover. Vegetables agriculture can be marketed locally in farmer's markets, or in pick-your-own operations, but most typically farmers contract their entire crop yield to wholesalers, canners or retailers. Vegetable farming is particularly seasonal, and this will give the grower the opportunity to produce more than one crop for seasonal markets.

RLF has Specialty Liquid Fertiliser products especially for the growing of vegetables. RLF Specialty Liquid Fertiliser products are scientifically formulated to deliver a complete and balanced nutrient package for vegetable plants. Ultra Foliar products, fertigation and furrow injection specialties together with soil and crop deficiency solutions are highly-specialised. RLF products support high yielding vegetables agriculture.

Fast Facts

- Tomatoes are the most commonly grown above ground vegetable crop in the world with approximately 150 million tonnes of tomatoes grown each year.
- China is the world's biggest producer of tomato vegetables growing close to 50 million tonnes annually. The United States of America is the second largest producer followed by India, Turkey and Egypt.
- Australia ranks 47th in the world as a commercial vegetable grower of tomatoes with approximately 300,00 tonnes grown annually.
- Tomato growing responds well to the hydroponic environment and is often used in hostile growing environments as a viable way of providing access to the vegetable.
- Leafy green vegetables are also grown aggressively in China and are favoured by consumers who are more conscious of health related outcomes. There is considerable restaurant trade for all vegetables in this category.
- Vegetables are considered as 'high-value' foods being different from the 'staple' foods market.
- Challenges for vegetable growers indicate a move towards crop nutrition rather than crop protection means of improving both yield and vegetable quality because growing consumer preference for foods that are organic or grown with other sustainable practices that limit pesticide use.
- Asia region countries also predominate in the growing of pulses, and there is growing interest in these vegetable crop types for export as developed countries seek larger supplies – again being driven by the health conscious consumer.

The World Top Producers

China and India predominate as top vegetable growing countries as the following chart shows :

Country (first-ranked)	by Vegetable production
China	Lettuce, Onion, Cabbage (and other brassicas), Green bean, Cauliflower and Broccoli, Eggplant, Potato, Spinach, Carrot, Turnip, Cucumber, Tomato, Pumpkin, Squash and Sweet Potato
India	Chickpea (and other pulses), Cinger, Safflower and Okra
United States of America	Soybean
Myanmar	Dry bean and Sesame
Nigeria	Cassava and Yam

RLF Products for Vegetable Crops

SEED OR SOAK	CROP NUTRITION	FOLIAR NPK	OTHER
BSN ULTRA	Fruits + Veggies Plus	POWER PK	UNIDIP UNIVERSAL DIP
			
■ **Fertiliser for seeds** ■ With added nutrients to improve overall performance and setting of yield potential for vegetable crops ■ Easy to apply with quick uptake of nutrient ■ Increases the available (inorganic) phosphorus of the seed	■ **1 specific Ultra Foliar fertiliser with 12 essential nutrients** ■ Leaf applied, efficiently absorbed with nutrients immediately available to the plant ■ Protective qualities that guard against soil nutrient variability and deficiency ■ Delivers root mass of greater size and volume, returning more matter to the soil and enhancing natural soil fertility	■ **Highly concentrated liquid phosphorus and potassium** ■ Imminently versatile - suitable for furrow injection, fertigation or foliar ■ Near neutral pH and free of chloride and sulphate ■ Easily mixed with UAN and urea for foliar spraying and with high citric acid content is highly suitable for foliar tank mixes	■ **Nutritional-based broad-spectrum nutrient charger** ■ Imrpoves vegetative reproduction and seedling establishment ■ Replaces air spaces with essential nutrients to generate better root and shoot development ■ Suitable for billet dipping, root soaking, stems and root dipping and transplanting