

SUCCESS AND SATISFACTION FOR GROWERS OF BITTER GOURD

RLF Fruits & Veggies Plus delivers an excellent nutritional program



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Background

Here comes the summer, and that special time of the year that people love to eat bitter gourd. It is a seasonal favourite. It is a cooling and much appreciated summer food.

Bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia*) is widely cultivated in South China and is known also by a variety of common names such as bitter melon, bitter squash, and balsam-pear. It has some unique characteristics, such as being pollinated by means of water and being able to withstand very high temperatures. Bitter gourd also tolerates fertilisers extremely well, and this is a helpful feature for farmers.



What farmers are most concerned about however is how to produce high quality and high yielding bitter gourd crops to sell at a good price.

Therefore, RLF Ultra Foliar product **Fruits & Veggies Plus** was chosen to experiment with.

To check upon the nutritional program effects the RLF Sales Manager in charge of Guangdong Province, Shen Zhiqiang, paid a visit to the bitter gourd growers in Renhe Village, Bingcun Town, Mei County, Meizhou City, Guangdong Province on 27th April 2017.

Outline of the Experiment

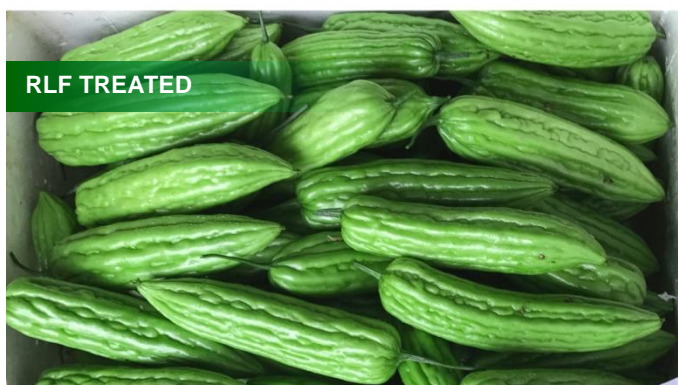
The demonstration farmers all followed a very simple crop nutrition program.

1. Foliar spray with 25ml of **Fruits & Veggies Plus** at 600 times dilution per half Mu land (approx. 330 sqm)
2. Apply five times (5x) throughout the bitter gourd growing season



The Excellent Results

The photo images that follow show the differences between the Treated and Untreated plants.



A Record of Comparison

Treated (RLF Fruits & Veggies Plus)	Control (Untreated)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ leaves are strong and vigorous showing good colour ✓ the vine is strong ✓ average length was 20cm ✓ uniform shape with high gloss skin ✓ smooth appearance with minimal malformations ✓ no manual sorting required ✓ selling price 2.2 Yuan per Jin (about 25 cents/kg) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the leaves are pale, have feeble growth and show signs of loss of vigour • the vine is weak • average length was 16cm • uneven shape • malformations were evident • greater level of manual sorting and handling required • selling price 1.8 Yuan per Jin (about 18 cents/kg)

20%

Bigger Produce



19%

Increase in Selling Price



Better colour, shape and appearance.



Bitter Gourd is another example of why more farmers are using **Fruits & Veggies Plus** an Ultra Foliar fertiliser with 12 essential nutrients.

These 12 nutrients are all safely balanced without any chemical antagonism. The nutrients are all at the required quantities to suit the plant's optimum requirements, therefore highly beneficial for all growth stages for crops like bitter gourd.

There are many benefits delivered by **Fruits & Veggies Plus** and some of these are :

1 specific product with 12 essential nutrients

N Nitrogen	P Phosphorus	K Potassium	S Sulphur	Mg Magnesium	B Boron
Cu Copper	Fe Iron	Mn Manganese	Mo Molybdenum	Zn Zinc	Co Cobalt

- ✓ increased growth and improved yield qualities
- ✓ guards against soil nutrient variability and deficiency
- ✓ delivers a greater size and volume root system
- ✓ returns more organic matter to the soil enhancing natural soil fertility
- ✓ ease of use year after year
- ✓ importantly, gives the plant the ability to resist disease and to handle climatic conditions better



Why RLF Fruits & Veggies Plus is Beneficial for Bitter Gourd Pest Attack

Bitter gourd unfortunately attracts a number of harmful bacterial diseases that require constant vigilance on the part of the farmer.

Bactrocera cucurbitae is one such disease and the lack of crop nutrition or crop protection practices can see bitter gourds easily infected. *Bactrocera cucurbitae* is an exotic insect pest that not only harms bitter gourd but cucumber, sponge gourd, winter melon and other melon crops as well.

a smooth appearance with minimal malformation means



19%

Increase in Selling Price

TREATED : resists pest attack for better results



UNTREATED : more susceptible to pest attack



Conclusion

RLF **Fruits & Veggies Plus** provides the best combination of plant health and plant nutrition possible, and the results of the experiment conducted on bitter gourd in the Guangdong Province support this.

Because of the situation with pest attack on the bitter gourd crop, the RLF technical team have agreed to work with local dealers to launch a program of pest control techniques and crop nutrition together. But the RLF message is simple : that by supplying the plant with a balanced nutritional fertiliser such as **Fruits & Veggies Plus** healthy crop outcomes are more assured, because stronger plants are able to better withstand a pest attack because of their robust growth, root development characteristics and health.

Fruits & Veggies Plus Ultra Foliar is a versatile and easy to use product for growers of bitter gourd.



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