Frequently Asked Questions

1. What crops work best with this system?

- Any row crop will work well, particularly vegetables (potato, tomato, bhendi, ghobi, onion, etc.), cotton, sugarcane, and spices (chillies, ginger, turmeric, etc.)
- The system is not recommended for fruit trees since they are typically not planted at uniform spacing that would match our laser punches. Drip irrigation with manually inserted online emitters is recommended for fruit trees and other wide and unevenly spaced crops.

2. How much is the permissible lateral length?

- 105 feet for 1-foot emitter spacing & 125 feet for 1.5-feet emitter spacing.

3. How much is the discharge rate for each water emitter?

- 4.5 litres per hour at 1 m (0.1 kg/cm2) pressure or 6 litres per hour at 2 m (0.2 kg/cm2) pressure

4. What is the maximum pressure with which laterals can run without damage?

- For 125 micron thickness laterals, the maximum pressure is 10 meters or 1 kg/cm2 of pressure. For 200 micron thickness laterals the maximum pressure is 15 meters or 1.5 kg/cm2 of pressure.

5. What happen if we put laterals in hot summer sun?

- Driptech laterals use virgin plastic and a UV stabilizer, giving a life expectancy of at least 3 years for 200 micron and at least 1 year for 125 micron laterals.2

6. If there is a slope in field, does this system work?

- The Driptech system is designed to work with low water pressure, and so it works best on flat ground. Permissible slope is 1 to 2 degrees. In this case, we recommend laying the sub main along the slope and laying the drip laterals across the slope, for maximum uniformity.

7. What is the suitable pump HP to run the system?

- Our system works with 1 hp to 10 hp pumps. Our system is optimized for low pressure so you can run the system even with 1 hp pump, but with 2-3 sections in 1 acre depending upon the pressure you get. With a pump of 7.5 hp or 10 hp, a bypass valve may be required depending on the distance of the pump from the field and the condition of the pump.

8. Do I need to install a filter?

- Yes, it is recommended that you should install a filter. Do not install the system without a filter.

9. How many laterals per row I need to install?

- Generally one lateral per row is sufficient but if the rows are very close i.e. 2 feet or less than that then it is better to install one lateral between two rows by skipping lateral in between next two rows.

10. What is the solution if the system gets clogged?

- Typical clogging of drip irrigation systems is of two types: 1. Due to saline water 2. Due to foreign particles.

- Our system doesn't have a tortuous pathway pressure compensating emitter so clogging due to saline water is very rare. If clogging does occur, the lateral side with the pre-punched holes can be wiped clean with a piece of cloth dipped in plain or soapy water at required intervals. In the 3rare case of severe clogging, you can use a light acid treatment, which costs around 500-700 Rs. / acre.
- Clogging due to foreign particles is rare if the system is installed with a filter. We recommend opening the ends of the laterals and flushing the laterals once a month and flushing the filter once per season.
- To prevent clogging, ensure that the ball valve connected to the mainline is closed prior to turning off the pump, else a suction will be created pulling dirt particles into the emitters.

11. What can we do to prevent the laterals from flying around in the wind?

- One option is to tie the end of the lateral to a stick or wooden stake at the end of each row.
- You can also use cycle spokes, thick wire, or any other similar kind of material, cut it into small pieces, bend it into a "U" shape, and press it into the ground at 2 – 3 locations along the length of each lateral.

12. One water emitter covers how much wetted area?

- Wetted area coverage varies from soil to soil, but for medium or loamy soil one water emitter can cover about 30 – 40 cm wetted diameter on average.

13. If we want to go for a gravity system, what should be the tank capacity? And how much should be the height of tank from ground?

- The tank capacity required is usually 2 litres per square meter of land to be irrigated. We generally recommend gravity systems to be limited to ¼ acre or 1000 square meters, which would require a 2000L tank or larger.
- The height of the tank from the ground should be 1 – 2 meters, depending on the size of the field.4

14. Can the system be installed sub-surface?

- The PVC sub-main can be installed in a trench and buried, but the laterals must remain on the surface. Short pieces of thicker tubing can be installed to connect to the PVC below ground and the take-off and Driptech lateral above ground

15. Can the system be shifted to another plot if necessary? The shifting of the system involves shifting of the sub-main line and the drip laterals attached to the sub-main.

- During installation, the PVC sub-mains can be joined using PVC unions, which are commonly available in the market, at desired intervals. This would provide flexibility to the end-user to unscrew the sub-main pipes and shift them whenever and wherever required.
- The Driptech laterals are very light and flexible by design. When desired, the laterals can easily be detached from sub-main line, rolled and kept aside at a safe place for reinstallation at a later time by the user.

16. How can I use the system if I plan to go for a crop with different row spacing afterwards?

- To have flexibility in terms of usage for crop with different row spacing, the sub-main can be fitted with additional grommets and take-offs. The additional take-offs not being used at a particular time should be kept closed using the green-coloured valve provided with each of the take-offs. When closer row spacing is required for a new crop, additional laterals can easily be attached to these take-offs.