

Chapter -9

Horticulture

India has been bestowed with wide range of climate and physio-geographical conditions and as such is most suitable for growing various kinds of horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, nuts, spices and plantation crops (coco nut, cashew nut and cocoa). That is why India has emerged as one of the major producer of fruits and vegetables in the world. Contribution of Horticulture sector of the GDP is increasing every year.

With the focused attention given to horticulture, there has been spectacular change in terms of adoption of new technologies, production and availability of horticulture product. India today is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world, contributing 11.84% and 13.36% of the total world production of fruits and vegetables respectively. The availability of flowers has increased significantly in all major cities in the country. India has a good opportunity of growing medicinal and aromatic plants. It is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices. India is also the largest producer of coconut, areca nut and cashew nut in the world.

Keeping in view the importance of Horticulture sector, the Government of India has launched a centrally sponsored scheme called the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in 2005-06. The objectives of the Mission are to enhance Horticulture production and improve Nutritional security and income support to farm households and others through area based regionally differentiated strategies. Crops such as fruits, spices, flowers, medicinal and aromatic plants, plantation crops of cashew and cocoa are included for area expansion whereas vegetables are covered through seed production cultivation, integrated Nutrient management, integrated pest management and organic farming.

All the states and the three Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar islands, Lakshadweep and Puducherry are covered under the mission except the 8 North Eastern states including Sikkim and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarkhand. The latter are covered under the Horticulture Mission for the North East and Himalayan States. The scheme is being implemented in 372 districts in the country. During 2005-06 to 2009-10 an additional 16.57 lakh hectare of identified Horticulture crops have been covered. Apart from establishments of 2192 Nurseries for production of quality planting material 2.78 lakh hectare has been covered under rejuvenation of old orchards.

With the implementation of NHM and other schemes the productions of Horticulture crops have increased from 170.8 million tonnes in 2004-05 to 214.7 million tonnes in 2008-09. The per capita availability of fruits and vegetables has increased from 391 gram per day in 2004-05 to 466 gram per day in 2008-09.

Technology Mission for Integrated development of horticulture in North Eastern states, Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand

This scheme has launched in 2001-02 to address issues related to Production and productivity, marketing and processing of Horticulture crops in the North Eastern states. In 2003-04, the Mission was extended to 3 Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand. This scheme has now been renamed as Horticulture Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan states. Under this Mission 265435 persons including 53276 women have been trained so far.

Directorate of Economic & Statistics (DES), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India operates a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Crop Estimation Survey on Fruits and Vegetables (CES-F&V)" for estimating area and production of horticulture crops. However, CES (F&V) covers only 7 fruits crops 5 vegetables crops and 2 spice crops from 11 states only. The National Horticulture Board (NHB) compiles and publishes annual data base for horticulture sector in respect of all the states and the crops.

Highlights:

- The area under horticultural crops increased from 16.6 million hectares in 2001-02 to 20.9 million hectares in 2009-10, whereas, the horticultural production increased from 145.8 million tonnes in 2001-02 to 223.1 million tonnes in 2009-10. The horticultural area registered the annual growth of 1 % in 2009-10 over 2008-09, whereas, the horticultural production registered the annual growth of 3.9 % in 2009-10 over 2008-09.
- The area under fruits increased from 4.01 million hectares in 2001-02 to 6.33 million hectares in 2009-10, whereas, its production increased from 43.00 million tonnes in 2001-02 to 71.51 million tonnes in 2009-10. The area and production under the fruits registered the annual growths of 3.7% and 4.5% respectively during 2009-10 over 2008-09.
- While mango alone accounts for 36.5% of the total area under various fruit crops, its production is 21% of the total fruit production in 2009-10. Production-wise banana accounted for more than 37% of the production of fruits although only 12% of the area under fruits is covered under banana in 2009-10.
- The area under vegetables increased from 6.16 million hectares in 2001-02 to 7.98 million hectares in 2009-10, whereas, its production increased from 88.62 million tonnes in 2001-02 to 133.74 million tonnes in 2009-10. The area and production under the vegetables registered the annual growths of 0.1% and 3.6% respectively during 2009-10 over 2008-09.
- The areas under onion and potato were 0.63 million hectares and 1.83 million hectares respectively, whereas, their production was 12.43 million tonnes and 36.58 million tonnes respectively during 2009-10.

- The area under flowers increased from 0.11 million hectares for 2001-02 to 0.18 million hectares in 2009-10, whereas, the production of loose flowers increased from 0.54 million tonnes in 2001-02 to 1.02million tonnes in 2009-10.
- The area under aromatic and medicinal plants increased from 0.13 million hectares in 2004-05 to 0.51 million hectares in 2009-10 and its production increased from 0.16 million tonnes in 2004-05 to 0.57 million tonnes in 2009-10.
- The area under plantation crops increased from 2.98 million hectares in 2001-02 to 3.26 million hectares in 2009-10 and the area of spices crops decreased from 3.22 million hectares to 2.46 million hectare during the same period. The productions of plantation crops and spices increased from 9.70 million tonnes and 3.77 million tonnes in 2001-02 to 11.93 million tonnes and 4.02 million tonnes respectively in 2009-10 which shows substantial increase in production of both plantation crops and spices.
- The value of export of horticultural products during 2009-10 was ₹ 76696.2 million. The export value of floriculture & seeds was to the tune of ₹ 4395.4 million, and for 'fresh fruits & vegetables' and 'processed fruits & vegetables' to the tune of ₹ 45179 million and ₹ 27122 million respectively during 2009-10.
- Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are the largest producer of horticulture products. In 2009-10 these two states produced nearly 25% of the total production of horticulture products in the country. West Bengal is the largest producer of flowers in the country. In 2009-10 West Bengal produced 33% of the production of flowers in the country.

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Table 9.1: Area and Production Estimates of Horticulture Crops -Summary (2007-08 to 2009-10)

Table 9.2: Area and Production of Various Horticulture Crops (2001-02 to 2009-10).

Table 9.3: Area and Production of Flowers-State-wise (2007-08 to 2009-10).

Table 9.4: Area, Production and Productivity of Various Kinds of Spices

Table 9.5: Area and Production of Fruits-State-wise (2001-02 to 2009-10).

Table 9.6: Area and Production of Vegetables –State-wise (2001-02 to 2009-10).

Table 9.7: Area and Production of Plantations –State-wise (2006-07 to 2009-10).

Table 9.8: Export of Horticulture Produce in India (2007-08 to 2009-10).

Table 9.9: Major Fruit Producing Countries in The World (2009-10)