

Horticulture

8.28 Horticulture, which includes crops such as vegetables, fruits, spices, floriculture, plantation crops, cashew, medicinal and aromatic plants etc., is an important sector for potential diversification and value addition in agriculture. Horticultural crops, particularly fruits are now beginning to receive attention in view of its increasing commercial importance accentuated by quick transportation to vast internal market. Adoption of drip irrigation has led to increase in the productivity of mangoes, grapes, citrus and coconut. More than 3 lakh hectares have been brought under drip irrigation and the current plan envisages bringing another 80000 ha of land in different States under drip irrigation. Estimated production of main horticultural crops during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is given in Table 8.12.

Fruits

8.29 India accounts for nearly 10 per cent of world production of fruit crops with annual production of about 44 to 46 million tonnes. The major fruits accounting for bulk of the production are mango, banana, grape, citrus, apple, guava, papaya, and pineapple. India ranks first in world production of both mango and banana, with a share of about 42 per cent and 26 per cent respectively. During 1998-99, India produced 98 lakh tonnes of mangoes from an area of about 14 lakh ha. Banana with production of 151 lakh tonnes from an area of 4.64 lakh ha. during 1998-99, has recorded unprecedented growth both in production and productivity in recent years. Productivity of

Crops	1997-98*	1998-99*	1999-2000*
Fruits	43.3	44.0	46.5
Vegetables	72.7	87.5	95.0
Spices	2.2	2.9	3.1
Cashew	0.4	0.5	0.5
Arecanut	0.3	0.4	0.4
Coconut**	13.1	14.6	16.9
Others	1.5	1.6	2.0
* Provisional **Billion Nuts			

grapes in India is the highest in world. There has been large growth and import substitution in case of raisin (dried grapes). This is an upcoming sector with good potentials for further growth. Ber and amla are the two tree crops, which are becoming increasingly popular in dryland areas. Pomegranate is yet another important crop for dryland areas. Citrus (which includes orange, lime, lemon etc.), with 46 lakh tonnes of production during 1998-99 covering an area of 4.88 lakh ha. is also an important horticulture crop in the country. Apple; largely grown in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and hills of Uttar Pradesh, has been expanding its domestic market and has provided livelihood to large number of people in hills. The production of apple during 1998-99 was 13.8 lakh tonnes from an area of 2.31 lakh ha.

Vegetables

8.30 India is perhaps the second largest producer of vegetables, next only to China. In 1998-99, with an estimated production of 87.5 million tonnes, India accounted for 14.4 per cent of world production of vegetables. The important vegetable crops produced in India are cauliflower, pea, potato, tomato, brinjal, onion, okra, cabbage and cucurbits. India ranks first in the world production of cauliflower and pea. The area & production of the important vegetables is given in the Table 8.13. Of late, exotic vegetables like broccoli, parsley and gherkin are gaining importance.

Vegetables	Area (lakh ha.)	Production (lakh tonnes)
Potato	12.8	224.9
Tomato	4.7	82.7
Brinjal	5.0	78.8
Onion	4.8	54.7
Okra	3.2	33.8
Cabbage	2.4	56.2

Spices

8.31 India grows a wide variety of spices like black pepper, ginger, cardamom, turmeric, garlic, chillies etc. The export demand for such spices is on the increase and the export earning from spices has increased from Rs.1231 crore in 1996-97 to Rs.1758 crore in 1998-99 and Rs.1861 crore in 1999-2000. The area under spices is expanding and northeastern region is also becoming an important area for production of spices.

Coconut

8.32 India is largest producer of coconut in the world with the distinction of having the highest productivity. Southern states account for more than 80 per cent of coconut production. This crop is used for various purposes and millions of families are dependent on this tree crop for their livelihood. Commercially viable schemes for diversified use of coconut i.e. coconut cream, coconut tetra pack, tender coconut and desiccated coconut, are now available. Over-production together with access to cheaper refined oils has caused a fall in prices of copra and coconut oil in 1999-2000.

Cashewnut

8.33 India occupies a premier position in cashewnut production, contributing about 43 per cent of the world production. India is also the largest exporter of cashewnut in the world. However, production of raw cashewnut in the country is far below the requirement of the processing sector necessitating therefore import of raw cashewnuts. The record production of raw cashewnut at 5.2 lakh tonnes obtained from an area of 6.86 lakh ha during 1999-2000 could barely meet 50 per cent of the demand of about 825 cashew processing units in the country. On an average, the demand for kernels for export and internal consumption has been growing at the rate of 13 per cent per annum.

Flowers

8.34 The area under flower cultivation during 1998-99 was reported to be around 73971 ha with an estimated production of 459163 tonnes of loose flowers and 115.6 million cut flowers. The volume of trade in the domestic markets is estimated to be around Rs.500 crore. Flower trade especially in Delhi and other metropolitan cities, has grown manifold during the last decade. India's share in world export of flowers is negligible with just about Rs.96.6 crore export earnings in 1998-99.