

Horticulture

8.14 A wide variability of agro-climatic conditions enables India to produce a wide range of horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, tropical tuber crops, ornamental crops, medicinal and aromatic plants, spices and plantation crops like coconut, cashew, cocoa etc. Data on horticultural crops in earlier years was not readily available. In recent years some organised efforts

were made to monitor data on important tree crops and vegetables. Table 8.11 gives the estimated area and production of major horticultural crops during the last four years.

8.15 India is the world's second largest producer of fruits & vegetables. It leads the world in production of mangos, bananas, sapotas and acid limes and has recently achieved high productivity in grapes. Mango is the most

TABLE 8.11
Estimated Area and Production of Major Horticultural Crops

(Area : Million Hectares; Production : Million Tonnes)

Crop	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01*	
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
Fruits	3.73	43.26	3.74	44.04	3.80	45.50	3.94	49.80
Apple	0.23	1.32	0.23	1.38	0.23	1.04	0.24	1.30
Banana	0.44	13.34	0.46	15.07	0.49	16.81	0.50	17.50
Citrus	0.48	4.31	0.48	4.57	0.52	4.65	0.53	4.80
Grapes	0.04	0.97	0.04	1.08	0.04	1.13	0.04	1.20
Guava	0.15	1.61	0.15	1.80	0.15	1.71	0.16	1.85
Litchi	0.05	0.45	0.05	0.43	0.05	0.43	0.06	0.45
Mango	1.38	10.23	1.40	9.78	1.48	10.50	1.50	11.40
Papaya	0.07	1.62	0.06	1.58	0.06	1.66	0.07	1.70
Pineapple	0.07	0.94	0.07	1.01	0.07	1.02	0.07	1.10
Sapota	0.04	0.44	0.05	0.68	0.06	0.80	0.07	0.90
Others	0.78	8.03	0.75	6.66	0.65	5.75	0.70	7.60
Vegetables	4.11	72.73	4.41	87.53	5.99	90.83	6.24	98.50
Brinjal	0.48	7.74	0.49	7.88	0.50	8.12	0.51	8.80
Cabbage	0.23	5.32	0.24	5.62	0.26	5.90	0.28	6.10
Cauliflower	0.25	4.47	0.25	4.69	0.25	4.72	0.26	4.80
Okra	0.32	3.21	0.33	3.38	0.35	3.42	0.36	3.50
Onion	0.34	3.14	0.48	5.47	0.49	4.90	0.52	6.50
Pea	0.27	2.42	0.28	2.70	0.27	2.71	0.30	3.80
Potato	1.21	17.65	1.28	22.49	1.34	25.00	1.38	26.00
Tomato	0.41	6.18	0.47	8.27	0.46	7.43	0.50	8.40
Others	0.60	22.60	0.59	27.03	2.07	28.63	2.13	30.60
Flowers	0.07	0.37	0.07	0.42	0.09	0.52	0.10	0.55
Spices	NA	2.76	NA	2.87	NA	2.91	NA	3.00
Cashew nut	0.70	0.36	0.71	0.46	0.69	0.52	0.63	0.45
Arecanut	0.27	0.33	0.28	0.31	0.29	0.33	NA	NA
Coconut**	1.86	12.72	1.75	12.54	1.78	12.25	NA	NA
Other Horticultural crops	NA	1.50	NA	1.65	NA	1.75	NA	1.85

* Provisional

** Production in thousand million nuts.

NA: Not Available

important fruit covering about 38 per cent of area and accounting for 23 per cent of total fruit production in the country. There has been a steady increase in the area and production of some fruits particularly amla, ber and pomegranate in the country as a result of identification and development of suitable varieties and production technologies in arid zones. Date palm and fig cultivation is also finding favour in some areas. India produces almost 13 per cent of world's vegetable output occupying first position in production of pea and cauliflower; second in onion, cabbage, tomato and brinjal; and fourth rank in potato.

8.16 India is known for growing traditional flowers such as jasmine, marigold, chrysanthemum, tuberose, crossandra and aster. Commercial cultivation of cut flowers such as rose, orchids, gladiolus, carnation, anthurium, gerbera and lilies has also become popular. Flower cultivation has been identified as an Extreme Focus Area for export by the Government.

8.17 Since ancient times, India has been known as the home of spices. A wide variety of spices are produced in the country, such as black pepper, cardamom, ginger, garlic, turmeric, chilly and a large variety of tree and seed spices. Among various spices grown, chilly dominates with a share of 32 per cent in the total production. The demand for chilly as spice and its oleoresins as a natural colouring material is growing in the domestic and international markets. The second largest spice is turmeric, with a share of 21 per cent.

8.18 Coconut is an important tree crop and about 10 million people derive their living from coconut cultivation, processing and related activities. Coconut is grown mainly along the coastal states of the country and also in the northeastern region. India also accounts for 45 per cent of the global output of cashew and is the largest producer, processor, consumer and exporter of cashew in the world.