

Horticulture

8.10 Horticulture has been recognized as an important avenue for diversification in agriculture in an eco-friendly manner through efficient land use, optimum utilization of natural resources and creation of employment opportunities, particularly for unemployed youth and women. The sector was given a boost by enhancing its outlay from Rs. 1,000 crore in the Eighth Plan, to Rs. 1,454 crore in the Ninth Plan and further to Rs. 2,105 crore in the Tenth Plan. As a result, the horticulture sector has grown significantly over the years. India has maintained leadership in the production of many commodities like mango, banana, coconut, arecanut, cashew, ginger, turmeric and black pepper (Table 8.9).

8.11 New initiatives taken in 2003-04 to boost the sector were:

- The centrally sponsored scheme on Technology Mission for integrated development of horticulture was extended to Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttaranchal in 2003-04.
- Additional cold storage facilities for 30.5 lakh tonnes were created under the cold storage scheme of the National Horticulture Board (NHB).
- The Central Government budget for 2003-04 announced the launching of schemes on Hi-Tech Horticulture & Precision Farming with an initial provision of Rs. 50 crore for 2003-04.
- A National Horticulture Mission with the objective of doubling horticulture production by 2010 was announced by the Prime Minister.

Table 8.9 : Area and production of major horticultural crops*(Area: Million hectares, Production: Million tonnes)*

Crop	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 (Provsional)		2002-03 (Provsional)	
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
Fruits	3.80	45.50	3.89	43.14	4.00	43.00	4.18	47.68
Apple	0.23	1.05	0.24	1.23	0.24	1.16	0.25	1.47
Banana	0.49	16.81	0.47	14.14	0.47	14.21	0.68	16.82
Citrus	0.53	4.65	0.50	4.40	0.62	4.80	0.60	4.72
Grapes	0.04	1.13	0.05	1.06	0.05	1.21	0.06	1.15
Guava	0.15	1.71	0.15	1.63	0.15	1.72	0.22	1.78
Litchi	0.05	0.43	0.05	0.40	0.06	0.40	0.05	0.44
Mango	1.49	10.50	1.52	10.06	1.58	10.02	1.60	10.78
Papaya	0.06	1.67	0.07	1.79	0.07	2.59	0.08	1.85
Pineapple	0.07	1.02	0.08	1.22	0.08	1.18	0.09	1.31
Sapota	0.06	0.64	0.07	0.74	0.05	0.60	0.07	0.71
Others	0.63	5.89	0.23	6.49	0.63	5.11	0.48	6.65
Vegetables	5.59	90.83	6.25	94.00	6.20	88.62	7.59	97.50
Brinjal	0.50	8.12	0.47	7.70	0.50	8.35	0.50	7.83
Cabbage	0.26	5.91	0.25	5.51	0.26	5.68	0.28	5.80
Cauliflower	0.25	4.72	0.26	4.69	0.27	4.89	0.28	4.80
Okra	0.35	3.42	0.35	3.34	0.35	3.32	0.37	3.53
Onion	0.49	4.90	0.45	4.72	0.50	5.25	0.53	5.45
Pea	0.27	2.71	0.32	3.01	0.30	2.04	0.35	3.20
Potato	1.34	25.00	1.21	22.44	1.25	24.45	1.37	25.00
Tomato	0.46	7.43	0.46	7.24	0.46	7.46	0.54	7.60
Others	2.07	28.63	2.48	35.35	2.31	27.18	3.37	34.74
Flowers	0.09	0.52	0.10	0.56	0.11	0.54	0.15	0.70
Spices	2.50	3.02	2.50	3.02	3.22	3.77	-	-
Cashew nut	0.69	0.52	0.72	0.45	0.74	0.46	0.73	0.47
Areca nut	0.29	0.33	0.29	0.33	0.29	0.33	-	-
Coconut*	1.77	12.23	1.82	12.68	1.89	12.82	-	-
Other horticultural crops	NA	1.75	0.11	0.15	0.12	0.17	0.13	0.19

NA: Not available * - Production in thousand million nuts

Source : Ministry of Agriculture.