

Horticulture

8.14 The importance of horticulture in improving the productivity of land, generating employment, improving economic conditions of the farmers and entrepreneurs, enhancing exports and, above all, providing nutritional security to the people, is widely acknowledged. Horticulture sector, which includes fruits, vegetables, spices, floriculture, and coconut, among others, covered 17.2 million hectares of land in 2003-04, accounting for 8.5 per cent of the gross cropped area of the country. With production of 156.1 million tonnes in 2003-04 (Table 8.9), the sector contributed 30 per cent of GDP from agriculture. The targeted growth rate during the Tenth Plan for the sector is 6 to 7 per cent. With fruit production at 47.5 million tonnes in 2003-04, India accounted for about 10 per cent of the global production of fruits from an area of 4.0 million hectares and was the second largest producer of fruits in the world. With 90 million tonnes of vegetable production in 2003-04, India ranked as the highest producer of vegetables in the world. In the world, India occupied first position in the production of cauliflower, second in onion and third in cabbage

New initiatives

National Horticulture Mission

8.15 As per NCMP, the Government of India will pay focused attention on the overall development of horticulture in the country by launching a National Horticulture Mission. It was also highlighted in the Budget Speech of the Union Finance Minister that a National Horticulture Mission will be implemented for doubling horticulture production in the country by 2011-12. The Mission will be implemented shortly.

National Bamboo Mission

8.16 Bamboo, a versatile grass, is yet another crop, whose potential has remained untapped. There is wide scope for growing bamboo both in the forest and non-forest areas, and thereby generating additional income to the farmers besides regenerating the soil health. A special scheme has been launched to cover an area of two million hectares during the Tenth Plan in a mission mode approach integrating the production, post-felling management, value addition and marketing aspects. It is targeted to cover a total area of 6 million hectares under bamboo cultivation during the Tenth and the Eleventh Plans.

Table 8.9 : Area and production of major horticultural crops

(Area: Million hectares, Production: Million tonnes)

Commodity	1991-92		2001-2002		2002-2003 (Provsional)		2003-04* (Provsional)	
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
Fruit	2.9	28.6	4.0	43.1	3.8	45.2	4.0	47.5
Vegetables	5.6	58.5	6.2	88.6	6.0	84.8	6.2	90.0
Spices	2.0	1.9	2.6	3.2	2.4*	3.1*	2.4	3.2
Coconut	1.5	6.9	1.9	8.8	1.9	12.1	2.0	12.5
Cashew	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.8*	0.5	0.9	0.6
Arecanut	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3*	0.4*	0.3	0.4
Other	0.2	0.2	1.5	1.8	1.5*	2.0*	1.5	2.0
Total	12.3	96.5	17.2	146.5	16.8	148.1	17.2	156.1

* Provisional

Source : Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation.