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ECONOMIC OF AREA, PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY OF HORTICULTURE SECTOR IN INDIA

DR.M.PRABHU¹; DR.E.GOPI²

¹Dept of Economics, S.V.University Tirupati - 517502

²Lecturer in Commerce, Govt. Degree College, Karvetinagaram , Chittoor District, AP

Abstract

Fruits and vegetables account for nearly 90% of the total horticulture production in the country. India is now the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world and is the leader in several horticultural crops, namely mango, banana, papaya, cashew nut, areca nut, potato, and okra (lady's finger). However, the nature of horticultural crops is such that it is not easy to make assessment of their production. These crops, especially vegetables, are grown in small plots, fields, or in the back of the houses, and they do not have single point of harvesting in most of the cases which makes their assessment difficult. Many horticultural crops have multiple pickings in a single season. Similarly, many fruit trees are scattered, which do not count for assessment.

Over the past decades, horticulture has developed into a potential enterprise of the agriculture sector, playing a vital role in accelerating the development of the economy of the country. An economic contribution of Horticulture sector 30.4 per cent to GDP of agriculture from nearly 13 per cent of the total cropped are and support nearly 20 per cent of the agricultural labour force. Horticulture output has increased nearly 70 per cent from around 167 million tonnes in 2004-05 to over 286.2 million tonnes in 2015-16 it was the higher than the food grain production in that year. Although India is one of the leading producers of fruits and vegetables in the world, unfortunately, many Indians are still facing lack of malnutrition.

Present study discuse the fruits and vegetables only, these crops account 90 per cent of total horticulture and play a unique role in India's economy by improving the gain full employment and income for small farmers and agriculture labour throughtout the year. It is abouserved that one hectare of fruit production generates 860 person – days per annum as against 143 person – days for cereal crops. Some industrial attribute crops and cultural intensive crops like grape, banana and pineapple, generate large employemnet from 1000 to 2500 persons – days per hectare.

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