

RESEARCH PAPER

Growth and performance of horticulture in India

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ABSTRACT

India, with its wide variability of climate and soil, is highly favourable for growing a large range of horticultural crops such as fruits; vegetables, potato, tropical tuber crops and mushroom; ornamental crops; medicinal and aromatic plants, spices and plantation crops like coconut, green nut, cashew, cocoa, tea, coffee and rubber. The changing scenario encourages private investment, to go for hi-tech horticulture with micro-propagation, protected cultivation, drip irrigation, fertigation and integrated nutrient and pest management, besides making use of latest post harvest measures particularly in the case of perishable commodities. As a result, horticulture crop production has moved from rural confines to commercial ventures and has attracted youth since it has proved to be intellectually satisfying and economically rewarding. As a result, the changing scenario of horticulture is studied through following objectives: To study the importance of horticulture and allied factors, To study the compound growth rates of area production and productivity of the horticultural crops. The secondary data was collected from the horticulture statistical data base, NHM, NEW DELHI. The data for 13 years (2001-2013) comprised the area production and productivity of horticultural crops. Simple descriptive analysis was carried out to analyse the importance and significant factors in it. Compound growth rate was calculated to study the performance of the crops with changing scenario. Fruit production increased five times *i.e.*, from 5.5 million tonnes in 1952-53 to 28.63 million tonnes in 1991-92 and further nine times to 54.04 million tonnes by 2013. The growth rate in mango crop shows positive trend in area, *i.e.*, 5.32 and 4.78 for production. The productivity is decreasing due to market behaviour. The growth rate in onion crop shows positive trend for area and production *i.e.*, 3.86, 5.51, respectively. The productivity is increasing due to market behaviour and more technology innovation. The growth rate in spices crop shows positive trend for production and productivity *i.e.*, 4.74 and 5.72, respectively. The area is decreasing due to market behaviour and aggregate deviations. India's exported of fruits and vegetables has found to be 12 crores to 13240 crores still at the global level our share is only around 1.4 per cent.

KEY WORDS : Growth, Performance, Horticulture

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