DRYLAND HORTICULTURE: A WAY TO IMPROVE RURAL LIVELIHOOD

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Dryland Horticulture encompasses growing of fruits under arid and semiarid environment, mostly under rainfed conditions. Production system under the fragile arid



environment faces several bio-physical constraints viz., poor soil condition, extremely high temperature, hot winds, high solar radiation ,very low rainfall etc. which lead to high

atmospheric vapour pressure deficit, high potential evapotranspiration and moisture index values as low as –

65 to -69. There is immense scope to develop horticulture in the arid regions, which will help to increase the production of fruits and improve the economic condition of the people of these regions. The drylands offer good scope for the development of horticulture, agro forestry, social forestry, Horti-Sylvipasture and such other similar systems, which will not only supply food, fuel to the village people and

fodder to the cattle but also forms a suitable vegetative cover for ecological maintenance. Experiments conducted in different agro- climatic regions of India proved that some fruit crops are very promising under dry farming situations,

Fruit crops for drylands:

Amla (Embilica officinalis)

Bael (Aegle marmelos)

Ber (Zyzyphus mauritiana)

Pomegranate (Punica granatum)

Custard apple (Annona squamosa)

Phalsa (Grewia asiatica)

West Indian cherry (Malpighia punicifolia)

Karonda(Carissa carandas)

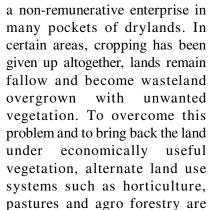
Jamun (Syzygium cuminii)

Manila tamarind (Pithecellobium dulce)

Wood apple (Feronia limonia)

Tamarind (Tamarindus indica)

Uncertainty in rainfall, poor soil fertility, and low level of management has made annual cropping of field crops



recommended. Growing of fruit crops is one of the ways of crop diversification in drylands, which provide higher and stable income to the farmers besides utilizing the offseason precipitation.

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which are as follows:

An International Research Journal RNI: UPENG/2010/3630

ISSN: 0976-5611

ONLINE ISSN: 2231-6418

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