



DISTRICT-WISE PRODUCTION OF FRESH AND DRY FRUITS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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ABSTRACT

Horticulture has emerged as a growth oriented sector for agriculture which offers a wider range of choice to the farmers for crop diversification. In the state of Jammu and Kashmir, all the districts have comparative advantages in some specific fruit which is the result of different topography, soil fertility, soil matter, different environment and geographic conditions. Most of the land available for horticulture is in districts such as Budgam, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara, Shopian, Kulgam, and Pulwama. The aim of the present paper is to analyse the district-wise production of major fresh and dry fruits in Jammu and Kashmir.

KEYWORDS-*Horticulture Sector, Fresh fruits, dry fruits, districts.*

INTRODUCTION

Jammu and Kashmir is northern most state of India with an area of 2, 22,236 sq. km. In terms of area, it is one of the largest states of India. The state consists of three division-Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Region. The state comprises of in total 22 districts, 10 each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions and 2 in Ladakh Region. Jammu division has Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch districts whereas Kashmir division has Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, and Kupwara districts whereas Ladakh region has Kargil and Leh districts. The state has two capitals-Jammu, the winter capital and Srinagar, the summer capital.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. About 70 percent of total state population depends on agriculture for their raw livelihood. Those who are working in other industries also depend on agriculture for the requirement of raw materials for their production. The estimated percentage contribution of agriculture and allied sector to state gross domestic product is only 19.96 percent (**as per advance estimates for 2013-14**).

Horticulture in recent years has emerged as an important sector and growing sub sector of the Jammu and Kashmir. The state is famous for its horticultural produce both in India as well as abroad. The state offers a wide range of choice to the farmers

for the cultivation of horticultural crops such as apple, pear, peach, apricot, cherry, almond, walnut, mango, gauva, etc. Jammu and Kashmir is home to growing all varieties of fresh and dry fruits. During the past few years, demand for high value and low volume horticulture crops has been showing much faster growth than demand for food grains (Rather et. al, 2013).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on the secondary data. Main source of data collection include government official records, Economic Survey, Jammu and Kashmir, Statistical Digest, Magazines and journals. The data has been analysed and interpreted through tabulation and simple percentage method.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study has certain specific objectives-

1. To analyse the district wise production of major fresh and dry fruits.
2. To give some suggestion for increasing the production of horticulture sector.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Apple and walnut are the major produces of Jammu and Kashmir, about 75 percent of apple and 90 percent of walnut production in India come from Jammu and Kashmir. Most of the land available for

horticulture is in Budgam, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara, Shopian, Kulgam, and Pulwama. In the state of Jammu and Kashmir, different areas and regions have dominance of some specific horticulture fruits because of comparative advantages of different districts in a specific fruit which is the result of varying topography, soil fertility, soil matter, different environmental and geographical conditions which results in diversification of horticulture fruits among different regions and districts (Lone and Sen, 2014).

The area under major horticulture crops in the state has been expanding but the area under orchards is far less as compared to the area under agriculture. According to the Horticulture Department, the area under major horticulture produce was 2.83 lakh hectare during 2006-07 in the state which increased to 3.25 lakh hectare in 2010-11 (Directorate of horticulture, J & K).

The state is blessed with vast potential for all kinds of fruits. Apple, Pear, Cherry, Plum, Walnut, Almonds etc. are major fruits grown in the state. As per horticulture department, production of total fruit during 2010-11 was 22.21 lakh metric tonnes comprising of 20.45 lakh metric tonnes of fresh fruit and 1.76 lakh metric tonnes of dry fruit. District-wise production of major fresh and dry fruits has shown in table 1.a. and 1.b.-

Table 1.a.: District wise production of Major Fresh Fruits for Year 2010-11
(000' metric tonnes)

S.no.	District	Apple	Cherry	Other fresh fruits
1	2	3	4	5
1	Anantnag	147.67	0.73	5.51
2	Kulgam	143.99	0	3.21
3	Pulwama	126.16	0.06	1.34
4	Shopian	264.86	4.98	0.22
5	Srinagar	27.89	2.74	3.97
6	Ganderbal	48.55	1.25	4.6
7	Budgam	89.96	0.24	1.13
8	Baramulla	671.53	0.44	1.08
9	Bandipora	79.28	0.13	1.50
10	Kupwara	222.16	0.57	1.86
11	Leh	5.31	0	3.42
12	Kargil	1.42	.006	5.43
13	Jammu	0	0	26.99
14	Samba	0	0	12.01
15	Udhampur	1.36	0	9.59
16	Reasi	.80	0	4.09
17	Doda	6.59	.003	0.95
18	Kishtwar	3.8	0.008	0.25
19	Ramban	6.07	0.005	1.32
20	Kathua	1.29	0	32.21
21	Rajouri	0.5	0	6.74
22	Poonch	3.25	0	3.07

Source- Directorate of Horticulture, J&K

Table 1.b.: District wise production of Major Dry Fruits for Year 2010-11

(000' metric tonnes)

S.no.	District	Walnut	Almond	Other dry Fruits
1	2	3	4	5
1	Anantnag	45.43	0.21	0
2	Kulgam	20.69	0	0
3	Pulwama	6.70	5.20	0
4	Shopian	7.94	0.07	0
5	Srinagar	2.02	0.08	0.15
6	Ganderbal	6.92	0.07	0
7	Budgam	9.22	6.78	0.002
8	Baramulla	7.06	0.003	0
9	Bandipora	2.76	0.13	0
10	Kupwara	24.38	0	0
11	Leh	0.12	0.001	0
12	Kargil	0.013	.001	0
13	Jammu	0	0	0
14	Samba	0	0	0
15	Udhampur	0.85	0.002	0.014
16	Reasi	3.76	0.002	0
17	Doda	4.67	0.005	0.001
18	Kishtwar	3.5	0.002	0
19	Ramban	4.28	0.001	0
20	Kathua	3.07	0.03	0
21	Rajouri	2.33	0	0.003
22	Poonch	8.05	0	0.006

Source- Directorate of Horticulture, Jammu & Kashmir.

District wise production of major fresh fruits during 2010-11 has shown in table 1.a. Table depicts that districts Baramulla, Shopian and Kupwara ranked first, second and third respectively in Apple production. The production of apple in district Baramulla was 671.53 thousand metric tonnes in 2010-11 i.e. 36.25 percent of total Apple production in the state. The production of apple in Shopian district was

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264.86 thousand metric tonnes i.e. 14.3 percent of total apple production during the same year. In 2010-11, the production of Apple in Kupwara was 222.16 thousand metric tonnes i.e. 11.99 of total Apple production. The district Jammu and Samba district does not produce any apple. Table 1.a. shows that cherry is mainly produced in district Shopian and Srinagar i.e. 4.98 and 2.74 thousand metric tonnes



during 2010-11. Respectively. The production of cherry was negligible in the district Leh, Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch during 2010-11.

Table.1.b. depicts that the district Anantnag, Kupwara, and Kulgam ranked first, second and third in walnut production respectively. The production of walnut in district Anantnag was 45.43 thousand metric tonnes in 2010-11 i.e. 27.75 percent of total walnut production in the state. The production of walnut in district Kupwara and Kulgam were 24.38 and 20.69 thousand metric tonnes which accounts 14.88 percent and 12.64 percent of total walnut production during the same year. The production of walnut was negligible in the districts Samba and Jammu.

Table 1.b. also depicts that the almonds is concentrated mainly in Budgam and Pulwama district respectively. The production of almond in Budgam district was 6.78 thousand metric tonnes which accounts 54.19 percent of total almond production in the state in 2010-11. The production of almond in district Pulwama was 5.20 thousand metric tonnes i.e. 41.57 percent of total almond production in the state. However, the production of almond was negligible in the Kulgam, Kupwara, Jammu, Samba, Rajouri and Poonch district respectively. Data shows that among dry fruits, walnut produce large quantity in the state.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

It has been concluded from the study that the crop diversification has taken place more in the districts of Kashmir division like Srinagar, Anantnag, Budgam, Pulwama, Baramulla which may attributed to the less average farm size than that of the state. So, the crop diversification in favour of commercial crops in Kashmir division is mainly due to the small average farm size and comparative advantage in the region.

It has been also shown from the study that production of major fruit is concentrated to few districts which have locked the horticulture sector at low level of equilibrium. Horticulture sector is concentrated towards few major horticulture fruits and there are many inter-regional disparities in fruit production.

For the growth prospect of horticulture sector, diversification should be the main focus in all the districts of the state. However, state should not follow a uniform policy due to physiographic region of the state. The government should take the help of experts in this regard.

The state government provides infrastructure to the private investors to set up agriculture and biotechnology research institutes for promotion of agriculture sector. Proper marketing facilities should be given to the fruit grower in the state. An export zones should be encourage to be set up in all the districts so that the export of fresh and dry fruits can be promoted.

For mechanising cultivation of some fruits and vegetables, some implements have been designed for distribution to the horticulture crop growers. Various implements such as mango harvesters, soil crust breaker, and fruit peeler are very important for the horticulture crop growers. This equipment must be widely demonstrated to the fruit growers to establish their suitability, cost effectiveness etc. and make them available. The production of fruits should be based on the comparative advantage.

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