
A study on Production and Productivity of Dry Fruits in Jammu and Kashmir

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Abstract

Horticulture has gained commercial tone in the recent years as an important component of agriculture, having very significant contribution in providing livelihood security to the growers globally. It plays an important role in states employment generation and nutritional security. The paper has evaluated the area, production, and productivity of dry fruits in Jammu and Kashmir. In India 77% of apple and 90% of walnut production belongs to Jammu and Kashmir and percentage share of state in India's total horticultural production is showing an increasing trend and the state has been declared as the " Agri. Export zone for Apples and Walnuts." The total production of dry fruits increased from 1.14 lakh MTs in 2004-05 to 2.76 lakh MTs in 2015-2016 and similarly the productivity per hectore has also increased from 1.26 MTs to 2.86 MTs.

Key Words: Horticulture, Production, Dry fruits

Introduction

Horticulture is the art and science of growing and handling fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs, flowers, foliage plants, woody ornamentals and turf. Horticulture connotes different meaning to different people it is science on the cutting edge of biotechnology, an art, profession, business, industry, hobby, way of life, and therapy for millions of people. Every one of us comes in contact with horticultural products and professions by some way or the other. Horticulture feeds us, improves our environment, and through science, is helping and finds answers to tomorrow's problems.

Horticulture has gained commercial tone in the recent years as an important component of Agriculture, having very significant share in the economy of the state. The moderate climatic conditions and fertile soil in Jammu and Kashmir offers immense scope to produce a wide variety of horticultural crops round the year. The horticulture crops provide better alternative for diversification of Indian

agriculture in view of higher return. It plays an important role in states nutritional security as well, including poverty alleviation and employment generation. The major fruits grown in the Jammu and Kashmir state are apple, walnut, almond, pear, mango, cherry, apricot, peach, plum etc. The horticulture industry also serves as a great advantage to the state due to its monopoly on walnuts, almonds, pears, cherries, hazelnuts, pecan nuts, strawberries and kiwi fruits. Fruit growing has become a major industry and contribute largely to the export trade of the state. There are around 6 lakh families comprising of about 30 lakh people which are directly or indirectly associated with horticulture. Horticulture development is one of the thrust areas in agriculture and a number of programmes have been implemented in the past, resulting in the generation of higher incomes in the rural areas, thereby improving the quality of life in villages. An income of ` 4100 crore has been generated from fruit production during 2011-12 which includes an amount of ` 495 crore from dry fruits (Economic Survey J&K 2012-13). From last decade the production and productivity of dry

fruits has raised substantially. Production of dry fruits has increased to 2.76 lakh metric tons in 2015-2016 from 1.14 lakh metric tons in 2004-05. During the same period of year's productivity per hectare of dry fruits increased to 2.87 metric tons from 1.26 metric tons. Jammu and Kashmir exports its horticulture products within the country well as to the other countries and in turn earns a substantial foreign exchange for the state. During the year 2013-14, the state exported 8561.03 metric ton of dry fruits both almond and walnut in shell and kernel and earned foreign exchange of Rs. 365.25 crore (Digest of Statistics 2015-16).

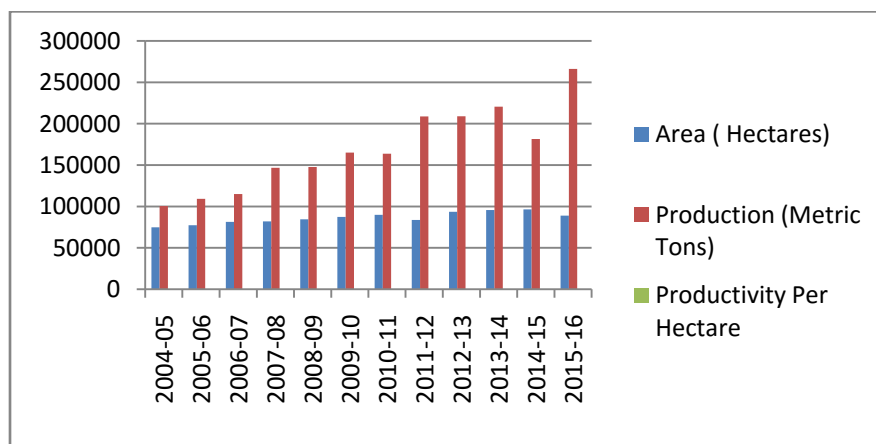
Methodology and Objectives

The study has evaluated the production and productivity of dry fruits (almond and walnut) in J&K. The present study is analytical and empirical in nature, based on secondary data source. The data is collected and analyzed from the time period 2000-16. Data is collected from Directorate of Horticulture Planning and marketing Kashmir, Directorate of Economics and Statistics J&K, National Horticulture Database. The data is also collected from magazines, books, journals, and other active related agencies of the department of horticulture in the J&K state.

Table 1: Area, Production and Productivity of walnut

| Year | Area (Hectares) | Production (Metric Tons) | Productivity Per Hectare |
|------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2004-05 | 74894 | 100596 | 1.34 |
| 2005-06 | 77226 | 109167 | 1.61 |
| 2006-07 | 81393 | 114926 | 1.41 |
| 2007-08 | 82045 | 146781 | 1.78 |
| 2008-09 | 84558 | 147642 | 1.74 |
| 2009-10 | 87280 | 165024 | 1.89 |
| 2010-11 | 89788 | 163745 | 1.82 |
| 2011-12 | 83613 | 208738 | 2.49 |
| 2012-13 | 93641 | 209051 | 2.23 |
| 2013-14 | 95601 | 220590 | 2.30 |
| 2014-15 | 96397 | 181443 | 1.88 |
| 2015-16 | 88900 | 266133 | 2.99 |
| CGR | 1.99 | 8.23 | 5.68 |

Source: Directorate of Horticulture, Government of J&K



The table 1 presents that area, production and productivity of walnut has increased. During 2004-05 the area under

walnut was 74894 hectares and which rose to 88900 hectares in 2015-016 with CGR of 1.99. In the same period the production has increased

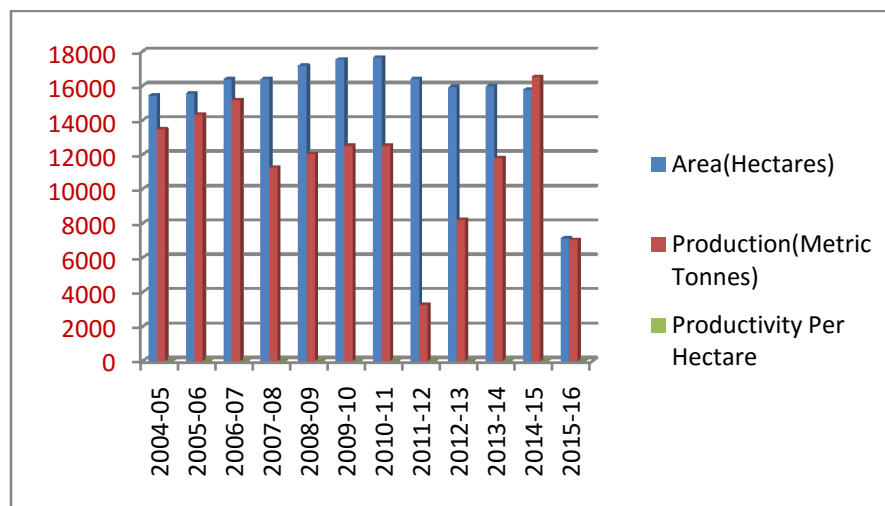
to 266133 metric tons from 100596 metric tons showing CGR of 8.23 and the productivity per

hectare has risen to 2.99 metric tons from 1.34 metric tons with CGR of 5.68.

Table 2: Area, Production and Productivity of almond

| Year | Area(Hectares) | Production(Metric Tonnes) | Productivity Per Hectare |
|------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2004-05 | 15433 | 13473 | 0.87 |
| 2005-06 | 15549 | 14327 | 0.92 |
| 2006-07 | 16374 | 15192 | 0.92 |
| 2007-08 | 16405 | 11261 | 0.68 |
| 2008-09 | 17182 | 12043 | 0.70 |
| 2009-10 | 17540 | 12515 | 0.71 |
| 2010-11 | 17654 | 12506 | 0.70 |
| 2011-12 | 16418 | 3258 | 0.19 |
| 2012-13 | 15932 | 8208 | 0.51 |
| 2013-14 | 15982 | 11815 | 0.73 |
| 2014-15 | 15776 | 16537 | 1.04 |
| 2015-16 | 7132 | 7060 | 0.98 |
| CGR | -3.03 | -4.47 | -1.58 |

Source: Directorate of Horticulture, Government of J&K



The table 2 presents that area and production of almond from last few years has decreased. During 2004-05 the area under dry fruits was 15433 hectares and which declined to 7132 hectares in 2015-2016 with CGR of -3.03. In the same period the production has declined to 7060 metric tons from 13473 metric tons showing CGR of -4.47 and the productivity per hectare has slightly risen to 0.98 metric tons from 0.87 metric tons with CGR of -1.58.

Conclusion

Horticulture sector in Jammu and Kashmir is growing sub-part of agriculture. This sector is the biggest source of livelihood in the state's economy. Due to high value demand and market of dry fruits a major portion of it is exported to other countries and lot of foreign exchange is earned. The present study finds out that aggregate production and productivity of dry fruits has increased magnificently. During the year 2005-06 the production of dry fruits was 1.23 lakh metric tonnes and it increased to 2.76 lakh metric tonnes during 2015-16 and the productivity per hectare of dry fruits also increased from 1.32 metric tonnes to 2.86 metric tonnes.

Jammu and Kashmir State has a vast potential to produce dry fruits which have attractive markets both in India and other countries. But yet in Jammu & Kashmir state there is very

backwardness in this sector. Considering the growth towards this sector, the state government should educate the cultivators to change their techniques of production. Proper irrigation facilities, Adequate storage facilities, Loans at subsidy rates, availability of new quality plant material, sale and export promotion centers, and transportation and various schemes should be given to the fruit growers in the state that will help them to increase both fruit production and the corresponding revenue.

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