

Changes in Farmers' Perspective for Fruit Cultivation: Fruits for Future

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Abstract—In early 60s', the most challenging task for our country was to feed the population, as we were lacking in sufficient grain production. The green revolution came in year 1966 and introduced high yielding varieties of cereal crops. The farmers adopted these varieties at a rapid rate and the grain production enhanced, profusely. Later, farmers' begin to shift towards the cultivation of fruits after golden revolution. The major reason responsible for the shift was comparatively lower productivity and returns of cereal crops than fruit crops. The farmers started showing interest in establishing orchards of mango, guava, citrus fruits, ber, jackfruit, papaya, banana, etc. The total production of horticultural crops surpassed the total production of cereal crops. In the last 10 years, the production of horticultural crops in India has increased from 191.8 MT to 299.8 MT. The country ranks first in the production of banana, mango, lime, lemon and papaya. Additionally, the introduction of new fruits (dragon fruit, kiwi fruit, passion fruit, etc.) and improved fruit varieties (Thai Guava, Thai Ber, Apple ber, Wonderful Pomegranate, etc.) has contributed towards the increased interest of farmers for growing more fruits for more benefit. Our presence in the global market is growing. Therefore, the research objectives should be planned considering the above scenario so that the economics and farmers of the country may be benefited together.