

Horticulture avocation –paying rich dividends in kinnaur

Kinnaur district which came into existence on 1st May 1960 as 5th district of state is secluded, rugged and mountaineous district and lies on both sides of river Satluj .Elevation of district ranges from 2320 to 6816mts above mean sea level.Climature ranges from dry temperate high hills to cold desert zones which is suitable for propagation of various horticultural crops.Total geographical area of district is 6,40,100 hect.Horticulture avocation by the farmers of kinnaur district has tremendously resulted for amelioration and transforming the economy of the tribal district in a big way, as prior to year 1950 the local people/farmers for their livelihood were dependent upon traditional agricultural crops like Ogla, Phaphra , Barley and to some extent on vegetable crops like Peas and Potato, Rajmash.With establishment of Government Horticulture farms(9 Nos.) including Regional Horticulture Research Station Sharboo located across length and breadth of district,mass multiplication of various fruits was carried out by the technical personnel and distribution of plants like Apple,Almond,Apricot and other Nuts and Dry fruits was made on massive scale resultantly more and more area has been brought under horticulture plantation in entire district and as per latest available data in all 11867.74 hect has been brought under horticulture plantation fruit-wise area is mentioned herewith:-

S.NO	Name of fruit crop	Area (Hect)
1	Apple	10101.54
2.	Almond	1004.02
3	Walnut	239.66
4	Apricot	318.74
5	Other fruits crops	203.78
	Total	11867.74

Presently in kinnaur district Horticulture contributes to Rs 220-225 Cr annually to Gross Domestic Product. During year 2010-11 production of 28,70,841 apple boxes(20kg pack) which is one of the predominant commercial fruit crop of district were produced which is highest record in history of kinnaur district ever since its inception(1960) which illustrates a pinnacle of success story about proliferation of horticultural activities and simultaneously substantial economic

upliftment of farming community of tribal district which were earlier greatly dependent upon conventional agriculture crops for their livelihood referred above.



Luscious apple- cusp of prosperity of Kinner Kailash (Kinnaur)

There is still a vast opportunity for further expansion of horticulture plantation in the entire district in general and development block Pooh in particular owing to the reason that a large portion /chunk of land is still unarable due to twin main impediments that is lack of water facilities and unconnectivity of far flung areas with vehicular roads involving mammoth transportation charges of the agriculture produce than actual expenditure on their actual production cost. But with the introduction of the various state and central government aided schemes viz PMGSY and others these basic infrastructure of irrigation facilities and road connectivity is being ensured all over the district in inaccessible areas like Rupi and Kuno Charang. Therefore, with the passage of time when both these basic facilities are created shall ostensibly bring a new ray of hope and new dawn for the enrichment of economy of the farmers of kinnaur district by adoption of horticulture in big way in years to come. Nako area of Dev. Block Pooh which was hitherto a stony piece of about 80 hectare of barren land has now been transformed into a verdant stretch /belt of apple and almond fruit plants once this area has recently been brought under irrigation facilities through various development schemes like Desert Development Project, Integrated Watershed Management Programme and liberal central assistance under Tribal Area Sub Plan

of Govt. of India including other ambitious Central government aided projects viz Horticulture Mission programme launched from year 2003 onwards and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna . Benefits of these ongoing schemes are being provided to the farmers by Department of Horticulture in Kinnaur district through network 16 nos. of Horticulture Extension Centres located all over the district from where not only technical know how is disseminated but timely horticulture supply is also ensured by the department personnel through their holistic efforts.



NAKO- Tourist destination of Kinnaur with verdant valley of Apple and almond plantation

Equal importance is also being paid for diversification of Horticulture and orchardists are incessantly being advised not to be over dependent upon Apple predominant fruit crop of the district so as to ensure their sustained economic aggrandizement. For this purpose besides import of regular cultivars of apple

(spur types) two new varieties of Apricot (150 progeny plants) namely 'Yervani' and 'Stanei' have been introduced for first time from Republic of Armenia and presently being tested in Govt. farm for vital parameters for onward successful plantation.



Yerevani apricot- A leap forward for perennial income through diversification of horticulture

During the course of the observation if results are found to be perceptibly tangible one then multiplication of elite planting material (imported apricot) shall also be carried out on mass scale for its onward availability to the intended growers as Apricot particularly drying types are quite popular and fetching high income and prosperity to rural farmers.

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