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TIPS FOR PROFITABLE HORTICULTURE

India’s horticulture production has crossed all time high of over 240 million tons and Central Agriculture minister, has announced 2012 as the “Year of Horticulture” to bring horticulture development in the country to centre stage.

India’s, second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world, horticulture exports has helped the country to earn Rs 14,000 crores in 2011-12, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries. Horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, their processed products, spices, plantation crops, cut flowers etc fetch 20-30 times more foreign exchange per unit area than cereals due to higher yields and higher prices prevailing in the international market.

Higher incomes and urbanization, changing lifestyles, international market integration and trade liberalization are all expected to fuel demand for horticultural products. The central agriculture ministry, GOI estimates that fruits and vegetable crops are four to eight times more profitable than other crops.

Improved irrigation, availability of disease-resistant hybrid varieties, new marketing channels are making it easier for farmers to shift to vegetables, which have been traditionally considered a riskier proposal because of shorter shelf life. Therefore, there was tremendous scope to improve the economic status of small and marginal farmers by increasing productivity of horticultural crops.

Horticultural crops have comparative advantage particularly under conditions where aerable land is scarce, labour is abundant and market is accessible. This relative profitability has been shown to be determining factor for crop diversification into horticultural production in India.

Horticultural produce has high value added and income generation potential and their production is attractive especially to small farmers. Farmers engaged in horticultural crops especially fruits and vegetables often earn higher net farm incomes than farmers that are engaged in the production of field crops. Studies from developing countries frequently show higher average net farm income per household member among horticultural producers. Case studies conducted in many parts of India showed that the net income per ha and the Benefit cost ratio for horticultural crops are always higher than the cereals.

Because of high market value, sale of horticultural produce is a vital source of income for poor households and even marginal/small farmers can sell small quantities in the village markets. By developing linkages between horticultural producers and marketers and by providing facilities to sell their produce directly to the consumers through Rythu Bazaars, they can get remunerative price to their produce.

Horticulture sector alleviates poverty by creating new jobs and generating new sources of income for farmers and landless laborers. Horticultural as high value crops plays an important role in revitalizing rural economies.

Farmers and women in urban areas can cultivate cut flowers such as roses, gladiolus, gerbera, orchids, carnations etc. which have high demand in the urban areas. Women have the most to benefit, as she plays a significant role in horticultural production. Besides jobs, horticultural sector also generates off-farm employment, especially for women such as export and value added processing Industries. For example, women comprise 91% of horticultural employees in Zimbabwe. They also improve women’s diets, health and productivity.

Since horticultural production is labor intensive, landless laborers also get benefited from the employment opportunities created by horticultural sector. Horticultural crop production provides jobs more than twice the number of jobs compared to cereal crop production per hectare of production. As far as the employment generation is concerned, one hectare of fruit production generates 860 man-days per annum as against 143 man-days in cereal crops. Some industrial linked crops and cultural intensive crops like grape, banana and pineapple generate much larger employment ranging from 1,000 to 2,500 man-days per hectare. Cashew industry alone provides employment to over 5.5 lakh workers annually.

International trade has opened new markets for horticultural farmers in developing countries. Among fresh fruits, mangoes and grapes; in vegetables, onion and potato; among flowers, roses; among plantation and spice crops, black pepper, cardamom, ginger, turmeric, chillies, cashew nut, tea, coffee, coconut, arecanut etc
constitute the bulk of the export basket. Although exports of horticultural crops mostly favors capital intensive and large farmers, it still benefits small scale producers through increased employment opportunities.

Identification and cultivation of horticultural crops which have good export potentiality in the world market and following the package of practices to maintain the quality standards as per the requirements of the importing countries improves the income levels of the farmers. Growing demand of flowers in the domestic as well as international market requires a concerted effort of the farmers or entrepreneurs to develop floriculture. Enhancing the production of high value horticultural products for exports through setting up post harvest facilities such as ripening chambers, cold storages, controlled atmosphere storages etc, processing units for value addition and market infrastructure brings more foreign exchange earnings to the country.

Many horticultural produce and their by-products are the important raw materials for many industries, thus providing more employment opportunities viz., tea, coffee, rubber, coir and sago industries etc. Growing of ornamental plants is an industry itself. Indoor plants have great marketing value. Medicinal plants are largely exploited in therapeutic industry for their known value in Medicare systems. Aromatic plants are used in perfumery industry. Major developments are taking place in this direction since last few years involving several multinational companies seeking collaboration for setting up fruit and vegetable processing units in India.

Farmers can improve their income by the way of value addition to the horticulture products through processing, packaging and marketing. For example, dry flowers for decoration and flowers for the extraction of perfumes and natural dyes earn higher net returns to the farmers.

Hi-tech cultivation under controlled climatic conditions i.e. protected cultivation of high value crops in poly houses, green houses, net houses etc. is also another source of enhancing the income of horticultural farmers. Though initial establishment costs are high, government is giving subsidies to the farmers who are taking up the poly house cultivation.

Another way of income generation activities of horticulture sector is, nursery production of quality seed/plant material of vegetables, flowers, ornamentals, fruits etc.

Farmers can reap more benefits from horticultural crops by increasing area under improved or hybrid varieties through diversification from traditional crops to plantations, orchids, vineyards, flower garden, vegetable garden etc and also by increasing production and productivity of horticultural crops through advanced cultivation practices.

(Dr. C.V.S.K. Sarma)
VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dr. YSRHU “Udyana Panchagam” released by the Hon’ble Chief Minister Sri N. Kiran Kumar Reddy garu on the eve of Ugadi on 23.3.2012.

Meetings in Dr. YSRHU

Faculty Board Meetings

Dr. YSRHU 3rd Faculty Meeting was held on 15.03.2012 at Conference Hall, Dr. YSRHU, Venkata ramangudem. In the meeting Dr. K. Soorianatha Sundaram, Professor & Head, Department of Fruit Science, HCRI, Coimbatore of TNAU participated as member from the outside state.

Academic Council Meeting

Dr. YSRHU’s 9th Academic Council Meeting was held on 16.03.2012 at Conference Hall, Dr. YSRHU, Venkataramanagudem.

VRS, Rajendranagar

Scientists of VRS participated in HORTI-EXPO 2012 at Peoples Plaza, Hyderabad and exhibited the production technologies and varieties of different vegetable crops in the allotted stall from 26.01.12 to 30.01.12.

HRS, Lam

On 27th February, 2012, Project Coordinator of AICRP on Vegetable Crops visited HRS, Lam and reviewed ongoing technical programme of work for the year 2011-12.

EDUCATION

SKPP Horticultural Polytechnic, Ramachandrapuram

SKPP Horticultural Polytechnic, Ramachandrapuram won the Overall Championship award in the Intercollegiate Sports, Cultural & Literary meet held from 20-2-2012 to 22-2-2012 at Horticultural Polytechnic, Ramagirikilla, Karimnagar District.

NSS Special Camp was conducted at Kapavaram adopted village of SKPP Horticultural Polytechnic, East Godavari District from 25-02-2012 to 02-03-2012.

SSPG Horticultural Polytechnic, Madakasira

On the National Voters Day, in the adopted village Gundumala, 34 villagers were identified not having voter cards, on this day NSS volunteers guided the villagers in filling up of application
forms for photo identity cards. Some of the villagers who have applied earlier for photo identity cards were given the Photo I.D Cards on this occasion. Later a procession was taken up in the village shouting slogans.

**Internship on Field Work Experience on Horticulture Crops**

25 Second year students of this college under-went Internship on Field Work Experience on Horticulture Crops from 17th - 31st January 2012 for a period of 2 weeks after III Semester at Rekulakunta, Anantapur district.

**College of Horticulture, Mojerla**

A special NSS camp was organized from 13-19th March 2012, at Mojerla village, Peddamandadi mandal with the participation of final year B.Sc Hons.(Horti) students. As a part of programme various activities such as Animal Health camp, Vaccination, plant protection in tomato and mango, seed production in tomato, Kitchen gardens, Jam preparation, vermicomposting, soil sampling, balanced fertilization, Seed production at farmer level, Integrated Pest Management in crops, Grafting & Budding techniques, Diagnostic visit to orchards etc were conducted. Special Awareness on HIV & AIDS, Anti-Alchaholism, village sanitation etc were also organised in the village. With the involvement of Red Cross society of India, Blood donation camp was also organized. In the village, Veterinary Dispensary Unit premises were also cleaned and wall painting was also done by the students. The programme was coordinated by Dr. M Shivaprasad (NSS Unit – Programme Officer).

**COH, Rajendranagar**

Activities of NSS Unit I of College of Horticulture, Rajendranagar, for the month of January, 2012.

Clean and Green Programme for 3 hours was organized on 21st January, 2012 with 100 NSS Volunteers of unit I and staff of College of Horticulture, Rajendranagar.

National Voters Day was celebrated at College of Horticulture, Rajendranagar on January 25th, 2012. On this occasion, Elocution, Essay Writing and Slogan Writing Competitions were conducted as mentioned below on 24th, January, 2012.

Rangoli depicting election commission of India was done by NSS Volunteers and other students of the college. On January 25th a meeting was conducted to create awareness about importance of voter registration, procedure of registration, ethical voting. Staff and students shared their views regarding celebration of National Voters Day.

**HRS, Kovvur**

Dr.B.V.K.Bhagavan, Senior Scientist (Hort) & Head gave training to 200 farmers of Kothapeta subdivision of East Godavari district under ATMA trainings on banana crop on 17.03.2012.
Floriculture Research Station, Rajendranagar

Floriculture Research Station, Rajendranagar has supplied 1000 bulbs of tuberose to KVK, Venkataramannagudem.

HRS, Anantapur

SSPG Horticultural Polytechnic College, Madakasira, students of 2nd Year Underwent Two Week Hands on Training Program at Horticultural Research Station, Anantapur January 17th to 31st, 2012.

HRS, Venkataramannagudem

Floriculture Research Station, Rajendranagar has supplied 1000 bulbs of tuberose to KVK, Venkataramannagudem.

KVK, Venkataramannagudem

The Chief General Manager NABARD, Hyderabad Sri. P. Mohanaiah Garu Visited to KVK, V.R.Gudem on 15.02.2012 and interacted with the Vocational Training programme “Veterinary First Aid and General Livestock Management” and encouraged the trainees and sanctioned veterinary first aid kits to the trainees.

KVK, Pandirimaradi

The Programme Coordinator along with the subject matter specialists Horticulture, Pathology, Soil Science & Home Science conducted extension programmes on INM in maize, management of Tea mosquito bug in cashew, best management practice of mango and cashew etc.

Dr.B.K.M.Lakshmi conducted survey on pest and disease incidence on tuber crops and at Veeravasaram, Thalepalli, Thenali and Ponnuru area and conducted front line demonstration trial on IDM in Yam cultivation on 14-02-12 and 15-02-12.

HRS, Darsi

S.Narasimha Rao, Scientist (Pl Path) along with the Principal Scientist and Scientist of ARS, Darsi and Co-ordinator DAATTC, Ongole visited the Tangutur mandal on 04.01.12 as diagnostic visit for Thane affected areas.
On 16.2.2012 Dr. L. Naram Naidu, Senior Scientist (H) & Dr. C. Venkata Ramana, Scientist (Hort) inspected LCA-625 miniket field of Subba Reddy, Rentachinthala and Maruturu villages and also participated in diagnostic survey on chilli in Rentachinthala Mandal of Guntur (dt) regarding severe incidence of Viral diseases of chilli.

Sri H. Hanuman Naik, Scientist (Hort.) & Head participated as Horticulture Resource person in the one day programme on Mirchilo Nuthana Yajamanya Paddathulu at Chinna Guder, Maripeda Mandal, Warangal District was organized by APMIP on 27-01-2012. The field day was organized in the fields of progressive farmers. On the programme, Sri R. Venkata Reddy Hon’ble Minister for Horticulture and Sericulture and RSAD, Sri P. Balram Naik, Mahabubabad M.P. and Sri R. Damodar Reddy, Suryapet M.L.A. and Sri D.S. Redya Naik, Ex-Minister were also dignitaries on the dais. The programme was conducted in the Chilli field progressive farmers Sri Rami Reddy on the programme line departments like ATMA, Department of Horticulture along with scientists and 1000 farmers have participated in the programme.

The Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Dr. C. V. S. K. SARMA I.A.S, APC & Principal Secretary to Government Agriculture & Co-operation (Hort.) Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh along with Director of Research, Dr. B. Srinivasulu and Estate Officer Cln. PRP Raju, Dr. YSRHU, V.R. Gudem has inaugurated “Cold storage cum ripening chamber” on 27.2.2012 at HRS, Kovvur.

The Honourable Vice Chancellor Dr. C. V. S. K. SARMA I.A.S interacting with Dr. B.V.K. Bhagavan, PS (Hort) & Head in Cold storage cum ripening chamber at HRS, Kovvur

Participation of farmers in training programme organized under RKVY at HRS, Kovvur

Two days farmers training programme was organized on 14th and 15th March, 2012.

Second day training and field visit conducted at HRS, Chintapalle Sri K. Ravindra Kumar interacted with farmers and distributed Nadia variety Ginger seed for mini kit trails.

Farmers training programme on Medicinal and Aromatic crops cultivation practices was organized on 22nd March, 2012. Farmers of Devarapalli, Sankada, Rintada, Gudem Kotta Veedhi were participated in the training programme.

During the training programme Pamphlet on “Turmeric” released and distributed to farmers and scientists.

Dr. B. Singh, Project Coordinator, Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi visited VRS and monitored the field trials of AICRP (VC) on 25-2-2012.

Dr. S. Ayyapan, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR visited, Agricultural Research Station and Horticultural Research Station, Anantapur as part of visit of Expert Committee to study the agricultural drought situation, on 26/02/2012

Dr. Om Prakash, Chief Consultant (NHM) Visited Demonstration Gardens of Network Project on Mitigating Bacterial Blight of Pomegranate in Mahbubnagar and Anantapur on 18/03/2012.

Dr. K. Subramanyam and Department of Horticulture official and Farmers Visited Pomegranate garden, Anapatpur.
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED

Conducted training programme on Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA) on 20th January, 2012 at Admin. Office, Dr.YSRHU, Venkataramanagudem. Many of the research scientists attended for the programme.

HRS, Kovvur
A training programme on “Yegumathi pramanalaku anugunanga arati sagu” was organized under RKVY at HRS, Kovvur on 23.2.2012. Dr.K.Haribabu, D.E, DrYSRHU, releasing the pamphlet on “Tissue culture arati yajamanyam” at HRS,Kovvur

CRS, Tirupati
Dr. K. Gopal, Zonal Research Head (Rayalaseema Zone), Citrus Research Station, Tirupati, organized one day training programme to registered citrus nurserymen on “Citrus nursery production (Sweet orange and acid lime)” on 24-03-12, at CRS, Tirupati. Dr.K. Haribabu, Director of Extension, Dr.YSRHU was the chief guest.

HCRI, Venkataramannagudem
Horticultural College and Research Institute, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem has organized a two day National Seminar on “Secondary Metabolites from Horticultural crops – A boon for better life via Biotechnological Practices” from 15th to 16th February, 2012. The seminar focused on the importance of secondary metabolites richly present in Horticultural crops and their contribution to the colour and fragrance of flowers, the essential components of medicines and the recreational drugs etc. and the Biotechnological practices adopted for mass production based on human demand.

Inaugural function was followed by Technical Sessions: Key note address was delivered by Dr. K. Hari Babu, Dean of Horticulture, Dr.YSRHU and the opening invited lecture was given by Dr. B. Srinivasulu, Registrar Dr.YSRHU. There were four Technical Sessions and each session included i) Invited Lectures delivered by eminent scientists from Prestigious Universities and National Institutes like Dr. V.K. Rao, IIHR, Bangalore,

AICRP on MAP & Betelvine Research Station, V.R.Gudem
Conducted two farmers training programmes on Betelvine cultivation at Gopalapuram of East Godavari District on 20.3.2012 and Doddipatla of West Godavari District on 21.3.2012.

KVK, Venkataramannagudem
Programme Co-ordinator and Subject Matter Specialist (Fisheries) conducted two days training programme on vermicompost and vermiculture production technology at Lankapalli, Vagupalli and Kannapuram.

KVK, Pandirimamidi
Twelve field diagnostic visits were conducted and suggested technologies for control of stem borer in maize, paddy and mealy bug in redgram, weed control in maize, erwinia rot in banana, potash deficiency in banana, tea mosquito bug in cashew and fruit borer management in mango.

Three days state level and one day district level training programmes on advances in cashew production technologies were conducted from 23-25th Jan, 2012 with the financial assistance of DCCD, Kochi.

Conducted one day training programme on promotion of maize production in tribal areas of East Godavari District with the collaboration of Director of Maize Research, New Delhi on 28th March, 2012.

LECTURES DELIVERED

SKPP Horticultural Polytechnic, Ramachandrapuram
On 23-1-2012 Sri. M. Satti Raju, Vice-Principal participated the Cashew Farmers meeting at Rampachodavaram and delivered the lecture on Cashew Crops.
MRS, Nuzvid

Smt. D. Aparna, Scientist (Hort.), gave lecture on “Steps to be taken during flowering and fruit setting for better yields in mango” at KVK, Venkataramannagudem on 13.02.2012.

Smt. D. Aparna, Scientist (Hort.), gave lecture on “Management practices to be followed during flowering, fruit setting stages against major pests and diseases of mango” at Putrela, Vissannapeta mandal on 16.02.2012.

Smt. D. Aparna, Scientist (Hort.), gave lecture on ‘Pest and disease management practices to be followed during fruit growth stages for better yields in mango” at Kunapurajuparva village, Reddygudem mandal on 27.02.2012.

VRS, Rajendranagar

Dr. B. K. M. Lakshmi, Scientist (Pl.Path), participated as resource person in “Farmers Scientist Interaction Meeting on Mango Crop” at Mango Research Station, Nuziveedu on 12-01-12.

Dr. RVSK Reddy, PS (H) delivered lecture on “Production technology for major vegetable crops” at Horti-Expo 2012 on 27-01-12.

Dr. RVSK Reddy, PS (H) delivered lecture on “Recent trends in vegetable cultivation” at Horti-Expo 2012 on 28-1-12.

HRS, Darsi

S. Narasimha Rao, Scientist (Pl. Path) delivered the lecture on efficient use of irrigation water in different horticultural crops on 21.03.12 organized by the Agricultural Research Station, Darsi.

S. Narasimha Rao, Scientist (Pl. Path) delivered the lecture on disease management on vegetables cultivated during the summer season on 24.03.12.

CRS, Tirupati

Dr. K. Gopal, Zonal Research Head (Rayalseema Zone) has delivered lead lecture on “Recent trends in diagnosis and management of bacterial diseases in citrus” in National Dialogue on Citrus Improvement, Production & Utilization, February 27-29, 2012 at NRCC, Nagpur.

Dr. K. Gopal, Principal Scientist (CP) has delivered lecture on “Bud wood indexing, certification and disease management in citrus” to registered nurserymen in one day training programme conducted at CRS, Tirupati on 24-03-2012.

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HRS, Anantapur

Dr. N. Seenivasan, Senior Scientist (Hort) delivered lecture on “Protected cultivation and management of summer vegetable crops” for Training Farmers of Anantapur and Kurnool dist, at Regional Horticultural Training Institute, Anantapur. 25/01/2012.

Dr. N. Seenivasan, Senior Scientist (Hort) delivered a guest lecture on “Influence of Climate Change on Horticultural Crops, during Awareness Program to Farmers on Climate Change Program organized by Agricultural Research Station, Anantapur on 02/02/2102

Dr. K. Subramanya, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) delivered lecture on “Mitigating Bacterial Blight disease of Pomegranate in Andhra Pradesh” for Training Farmers under Network Project at Gundumala village, Madakasira, Anantapur on 12/02/2012.

Dr. K. Subramanyam, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) delivered lecture on “Mitigating Bacterial Blight disease of Pomegranate in Andhra Pradesh” for Training Farmers under Network Project at Gadwal, Mahabubnagar on 17/03/2012.

Floriculture Research Station, Rajendranagar

Smt. P. Lalitha Kameswari, Scientist (Hort) delivered a lecture on “Commercial cultivation of flower crops” to growers of floriculture from Shillong on 20/3/2012.

Smt. P. Lalitha Kameswari, Scientist (Hort) delivered a lecture on “Improved cultivation practices of flower crops” On 22-3-2012 to the students of SKPP Horticultural Polytechnic, Ramachandrapuram.

UNIVERSITY INFRASTRUCTURE

College of Horticulture, Mojerla

As a part of the beautification of college, landscaping work was carried out with the participation of students. Different activities like laying out of turf grass, planting of border plants, shrubs and avenue trees were taken up.
Dr. B. Prasanna Kumar, Professor (Horticulture) and Technical Officer to Dean of Horticulture, Dr. YSRHU has been received “STATE BEST OFFICER AWARD” as Ugadi Puraskaram from Chief Minister on 23.3.2012.

Dr. K. Gopal, Zonal Research Head (Rayalaseema Zone), Citrus Research Station, Tirupati, received Dr. Shyam Singh Best Scientist Award on Citrus Research for the year 2010 in National seminar on “National Dialogue on Citrus Improvement, Production and Utilization” held at Nagpur, Maharashtra from 27-29, February, 2012. The award was received in the form of citation, memento and cash Rs. 5000/- from The President, Indian Society of Citriculture, NRC on Citrus, Nagpur – 440 010.

Dr. K. Dhanunjaya Rao, Principle Scientist (Hort.), Floriculture Research Station, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad has been received “STATE BEST OFFICER AWARD” as Ugadi Puraskaram from Chief Minister on 23.3.2012.

Dr. R. Rajya Lakshmi, Scientist (Hort.) was awarded certificate of appreciation for the oral presentation on “Status on genetic divergence in brinjal” in the National seminar on trends in agricultural biotechnology and environmental protection, held at Loyola Academy, Secunderabad on 24-25th, February, 2012.

Sri M. Hanuman Naik, Scientist (Horticulture), Horticulture Research Station, Malyal, has been received “STATE BEST OFFICER AWARD” as Ugadi Puraskaram from Chief Minister on 23.3.2012.

Dr. K. Hari Babu, Dean of Student Affairs and Dean of Horticulture i/c. has retired from services on 31.03.2012 on attaining the age of superannuation.

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