



Horticulture Sector in India



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What is Horticulture?

- ❑ Branch of agriculture dealing with cultivation, production and sale of vegetables, fruits, herbs and exotic ornamental plants.
- ❑ Derived from Latin words hortus (garden) and cultūra (cultivation).
- ❑ L.H. Bailey- Father of American Horticulture.
- ❑ M.H. Marigowda- Father of Indian Horticulture.

Classification

- ❑ **Pomology:** Fruit & nut crops
- ❑ **Olericulture:** Vegetable crops
- ❑ **Arboriculture:** Trees, shrubs and perennial woody plants
- ❑ **Ornamental:**
 - **Floriculture:** Flower crops
 - **Landscape horticulture:** beautifying outdoor plants

Features of Horticulture in India

- ❑ More remunerative than food grains
- ❑ Provides employment in all three sectors
- ❑ More resilient to weather changes
- ❑ Minimal risk of crop failure due to low water utility
- ❑ Multiple crops planted simultaneously maximising fertilisers usage
- ❑ Provides for a diverse and balanced diet
- ❑ Becoming a key driver in economic growth with ICAR's efforts

Achievements

- ❑ Gained prominence by contributing a growing share in GVAs
- ❑ MIDH is implemented to increase production & reduce post-harvest losses
- ❑ Fruits & vegetables production has overcome food grains production
- ❑ Total production has increased from 211.2 million tonnes (2007-08) to 311.71 million tonnes (2018-19)
- ❑ India 2nd largest producer of fruits & vegetables
- ❑ Largest producer of- Banana, Mango, Lime/Lemon, Okra & Papaya
- ❑ Biotic & abiotic stress resistant varieties have been developed
- ❑ Development of disease free planting material
- ❑ Standardisation of micropropagation techniques
- ❑ Development of micro irrigation & fertigation
- ❑ Good Agricultural Practices have been developed
- ❑ Farms have been mechanized to increase harvesting & processing efficiency and to reduce crop loss
- ❑ Development of low cost environment friendly cool chambers
- ❑ Region & crop specific training & demonstration programmes have been taken up

Challenges

- ❑ No safety net like MSP on food grains
- ❑ Lack of good cold chain storage & transport networks
- ❑ Very less or limited input by machinery & equipments
- ❑ Higher input costs making it tough to set up
- ❑ High price fluctuations
- ❑ Limited market availability intelligence

Suggestions

- ❑ Achieve technology led developments
- ❑ Post harvest & value addition is needed
- ❑ Modified atmosphere packaging for long storability & transportation
- ❑ Using insect pollinators for improving productivity and quality
- ❑ Development of varieties for cultivation in non-traditional areas
- ❑ Nutrient dynamics and interaction
- ❑ Bioenergy and solid waste utilisation
- ❑ Plan, coordinate and monitor R&D programmes

Way Forward

- ❑ Major source of positive growth
- ❑ Promising source of income acceleration, employment generation, poverty alleviation and export promotion
- ❑ Strong backward-forward linkages for growth stimulation & sustainability



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