



## Horticulture Development in Andhra Pradesh

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### **Abstract**

*Horticulture contributes to approximately 5.16% of the state GSDP. The GSDP is 4.98% in 2004-05 is increased to 5.16% by 2012-13. It offers wide range of crop diversification choices to farmers and providing opportunities for sustaining large no. of Agro based industries which have created employment opportunities to semi skilled and unskilled labour. The present paper analyzes the importance of Horticulture, Horticulture and five year plan, pattern in Andhra Pradesh and committees and its recommendations.*

**Key words:** Horticulture, development, employment, opportunities, Marketing and Export

### **1. Introduction**

The agriculture sector is the principal source of livelihood for over 70 percent of the total population in Andhra Pradesh. Horticulture is an important segment of Agriculture sector which contributes about one fifth share in the state economy. The state with high Geographical diversity and agro climatic Zones, various soil and good irrigation resources is better place for growing various Horticulture crops. Horticulture contributes to approximately 5.16% of the state GSDP. The GSDP is 4.98% in 2004-05 is increased to 5.16% by 2012-13. It offers wide range of crop diversification choices to farmers and providing opportunities for sustaining large no. of Agro based industries which have created employment opportunities to semi skilled and unskilled labour. IHR would be taking up research programs which would cumulatively add 2% growth to AGDP every five years, ultimately reaching a

projected growth rate of 12 to 15 % in the upcoming 20 years. Following chart focuses on the amounts allotted to horticulture sector development in various implemented five years plans.

### **2. Horticulture and five year plan**

Steps were taken forward for development of horticulture from fifth five year plan. In fifth five year plan took initiative steps to development horticulture in India and provision of rupees five crore granted for diverse states. 6th five year plan describes the importance of horticulture projects as "Horticulture Project raises social and economical condition of farmers; curb malnutrition; resist several diseases; security against erosion of soil; create new opportunities of employment and derive foreign currency".

Between 6<sup>th</sup> five year plan production target was 2500 + metric tons of fruits and 4000 + metric tons of vegetable



decided and for achieving it high yield varieties of seeds, plants production and its distribution, extra land exert under cultivation, availability of essential facilities in production and marketing etc programs brought into force. Owing to complement to each other both agriculture and horticulture sector have decided to combinative consideration. "Especially this program introduced in hilly area, drought area, saline land and merely possibility of tillage and it deserve to raises in income and life style of poorer and neglected people". This is mentioned object underlying in seven five year plan. In coming years the population of India would be crossed about 150 crores by 2025, when the main challenge the country would face will be food and nutritional security. The national commission on agriculture has projected a growth rate of 8% for horticulture in 10th and 11th five year plan. The research programs in horticulture to be directed to increased production for sustainable development while maintaining the socio-economic and ecological balance.

During the X Five Year Plan the thrusts like 1.Improving production.2.Improving productivity.3.Reducing cost of production.4.Improving quality of products for exports.5.Value addition.6.Marketing and Export.7.Price stabilization. 8. strengthening of organizational support.9.Human Resource Development and 10.Addressing relevant policy issues and strategies are proposed to achieve the goals. The improvement program has chosen in X five year plan to overcome on the difficulties which has been facing by

this sector and result to obstruct the growth of same. Besides these improvement programs the government has to concentrate on WTO issue in regard of marketing and trade related affairs. For sustainable development of horticulture the prerequisite infrastructure should be making available by the concern authority. Standard of horticulture produce should maintain in line of quantity and quality approach to capture the markets and fulfill the nutrition standard. Establishment of organization setup in horticulture will lead to organize and coordinate the steer of functions in proper way

### 3. **Export of horticulture Crop**

India is famous in its traditional export of agriculture commodities in the world. Horticulture export have witnessed a rising trend from 1997-98 onwards. With growing horticulture trade the share of the group in India's agricultural exports approximately stand at 52%. India accounted for 1.7 % share of global trade in vegetable and 0.5 in fruits. The major horticulture items being exported from India includes fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops and flowers. While some of the destinations are Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nepal, U.A.E., and U.K. etc. In annual year 2005-06 the export of fresh fruits was Rs. 938.58 crores and of vegetable was Rs. 823.33 crores. It was increased in consecutive year up to Rs. 1,167.26crores and Rs. 1,322.54 respectively for fruits and vegetables. The major exported fruits from India are Mango, Grapes, mushrooms etc. Major



Fruits Cultivated in India With diverse of land and climate conditions in Indian province about or almost all states being cultivate number of fruits in their territories. India is leading producer of mango and banana with near about 41% of world mango and 23% of world banana production.

Besides these fruits India also leading in apple, citrus, grapes, guava, litchi, papaya, pineapple, pomegranate, saputa and other delicious fruits.

#### 4. Horticulture in Andhra Pradesh

State Horticulture Mission has been launched in Andhra Pradesh in the year 2005 to promote holistic growth of the horticulture sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategies. This programme is under implementation in 18 districts, Srikakulam, West Godavari, Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa, Ananathapur, Kurnool, Mahabubnagar, Rangareddy, Medak, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Adilabad, Nalgonda and 2 Tribal Areas (Rampachodavaram of East Godavari and Paderu of Visakhapatnam) of the state.

Horticulture is fastest growing sector that has provided marked changes in the life styles and consumption habits of people. A.P. Rank 1st in production of Fruits & Spices and 3rd in production of Flowers in the country. In crop wise, Andhra Pradesh ranks 1st in the production of Citrus, Papaya, Oilpalm & Tomato, 2nd in production of Mango, Cachew and 3rd in production of Flowers and 4th in the production of Banana.

The production of Vegetables and productivity has been increased by adopting major interventions like usage of Hybrid vegetable seed, nursery raising on raised beds, and in polytrays under insect proof net boxes, ridge planting, pandal cultivation, staking of tomato with trellis, sprinkler irrigation in leafy vegetables micro irrigation, adoption of integrated nutrient management and integrated pest management, projected cultivation and growing of inter crops in orchards during pre bearing period.

Andhra Pradesh has also launched special project "A.P. Micro Irrigation Project" in 2003 with an objective for enhancing productivity and improving of water use efficiency through Micro Irrigation Systems. A total area of 8.95 lakh ha., was brought under Micro Irrigation in A.P. and A.P. stands 1st in Micro irrigation in India.

To provide comprehensive development of all the sub sectors of Horticulture and to provide additional income to farmers, the State Horticulture Mission was launched in November, 2005. The major activities are being taken up under the programme are establishing of New gardens, Rejuvenation, IPM / INM, PHM etc., and farmers are also being trained on the programmes that are being implemented.

Andhra Pradesh ranks 1st in area and production of oil palm in India. This crop is being taken up in 10 Districts in Andhra Pradesh, covering an area of 1.229 lakh ha., Since 1992, the TMO & P GOI has given financial assistance and from 2010-11 onwards the area expansion



of oil palm is being taken up by RKVY programme.

Through the production is being increased multifold in Horticulture crops, the Post Harvest losses are around 30-35% due to handling and poor storage. Hence the Department of Horticulture is encouraging Cold Storages, Pack Houses, Ripening Chambers, Plastic Crates, farm Fresh Vegetables on Wheels, Drying Plot forms etc., at present only 2-3% of total production is being processed. This needs to be increased by utilizing available surplus produces. Processing and marketing through Agri Export zones through private participation is to be encouraged in the potential region. As per the records the exports of Horticulture produces is 3,46,600 MYs value Rs.63,486 Crores.

By adopting various interventions, for increasing the production and productivity and also adoption of Pre and Post harvest management practices, it is assumed that the GSDP will significantly increase to 9-10% by the end of 12th Five Year Plan.

#### **5. Strategies for Development of Horticulture:**

1. Increase in production and productivity for sustainable Horticulture through rejuvenation of old orchards, organic farming and supply of improved and hybrid varieties instead of traditional varieties.
2. Quality improvement through adoption of crop specific I.P.M., I.N.M. and adoption of pre & post harvest management practices, etc.

3. Development of post harvest infrastructure like pre cooling, cold storages, ripening chambers, refer vans, value addition centers, etc.

4. Facilitating processing, value addition, marketing and exports.

5. Efficient and effective utilization of water through Micro irrigation.

#### **6. Promotion of Horticulture Activities (Development of R&T /Spices / Floriculture**

#### **/HRD /Awareness programmes / Post Harvest Management)**

1. To bring additional area under various horticulture crops with improved and new varieties, adoption of latest package of practices, supply of elite plant material / hybrid seeds etc.

2. To restore the vigour to increase the productivity of the existing old/senile garden by rejuvenation.

3. To promote new technologies like green house cultivation, use of tissueculture plants, shade nets, mulching etc.

4. To upgrade the skills and knowledge on latest package of practice and technologies of the progressive farmers through training and exposure visits conducted by Horticulture Training Institute.

5. To enhance the quality and boost the exports through IPM /INM, organic farming etc.

6. To create awareness by conducting shown and seminars.



7. To create pre and post harvest infrastructure to reduce the post harvest losses by providing assistance as the capital investment is high besides supplying PP equipment and post harvest tools, brand promotion.

#### **7. National Horticulture Mission:**

1. To provide holistic growth of the horticulture sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies which include research, technology promotion, extension, post harvest management, processing and marketing. In consonance with comparative advantage of each region and its diverse agro-climatic feature;

2. To enhance horticulture production, improve nutritional security and incomesupport to far households;

3. To establish convergence and synergy among multiple on-going and planned programmes for horticulture development;

4. To promote, develop and disseminate technologies, through a seamless blend of traditional wisdom and modern scientific knowledge;

5. To create opportunities for employment generation for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth;

6. The State Horticulture Mission was launched on 3rd November, 2005 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to promote holistic growth of the horticulture sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategies. The focus of the programme is to provide comprehensive

development of all the sub-sector of horticulture so as to provide additional income to the Horticulture growers. This programme is under implementation in 18 districts (except Hyderabad, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Krishna Districts) and 2 Tribal Areas of Rampachodavaram of East Godavari and Paderu of Visakhapatnam Districts.

7. During 2011-12, an amount of Rs.114.76 crores was utilized for implementation of various activities like establishment of new gardens, rejuvenation of senile gardens, IPM /INM, HRD, Organic farming , farm mechanization and post harvest management etc.

8. During 2012-13 and amount of Rs.93.45 crores is utilized so far for implementation of SHM programme.

#### **Rastriya krishi vikas yojana:**

The RKVY aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the Agriculture sector by ensuring a holistic development of Agriculture and allied sectors. The main objectives of the scheme are:

1. To ensure that the local needs/crops/priorities are better reflected in the agriculture plans of the states

2.To achieve the goal of reducing the yield gaps in important crops, through focused interventions.

3. To maximize returns to the farmers in Agriculture and allied sectors.

4. To bring about quantifiable changes in the production and productivity of various components of Agriculture and



allied sectors addressing them in a holistic manner.

#### **State Horticulture mission:**

The State Horticulture Mission in Andhra Pradesh was launched on 3rd November, 2005 under National Horticulture Mission with the following main objectives:

1. To provide holistic growth of the Horticulture sector in cluster approach which include research, technology promotion, extension, post harvest management, processing and marketing.
2. To enhance Horticulture production, improve nutritional security and income support to farm households.
3. To establish convergence and synergy among multiple on-going and planned programmes for horticulture development.
4. To create opportunities for employment generation for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.

#### **State Plan Scheme:**

To increase area of Root & Tuber crops to ensure continuous supply of Toot & Tuber crops like Potato, Turmeric etc., Bringing additional area under Flower crops with improved/hybrid varieties. To create awareness among the farming community regarding the post harvest management (PHM) to reduce the PHM losses.

A.P. Micro Irrigation Project, a unique and first comprehensive project being implemented in big way in Andhra

Pradesh. APMIP was launched on November, 2003 with an objective of enhancing the crop productivity by improving the water use efficiency through Micro-irrigation system. Andhra Pradesh ranks in Micro irrigation covering an area of 9.75 lakh ha. by end of 2012-13. It is one of the Flagship Programme of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh started as project with gradual improvement from "Supply Driven to Demand driven Stage".

#### **8. Horticulture Department Related Standing Committee.**

In the history of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature, the system of Departmentally Related Standing Committees have been started functioning with effect from 26th April, 2013 from the Budget of 2013-2014 which was presented to the House on 18th March, 2013. The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Agriculture consists of Agriculture, Co-operation, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries and Civil Supplies Administration.

The minutes of the meetings of the Committee stand part of the Report. The Committee expresses it's thanks to the officials of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture and Agriculture Marketing Departments in general and the officials of Legislature Secretariat in particular for their vulnerable assistance and in bringing out this Report.

The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at its meeting held on 4th June, 2013. For reference the



Observations and Recommendations of the Committee was printed thick type in the body of the Report.

### **The Committee recommendations**

1. The Committee recommends that to Release of additional amount towards State share Rs.207.47 Crores. The Committee recommends that during the year 2013-14, the budget provision is made under the head of GH – 07 RDF loan. Since, the project is deleted from NABARD RIDF, the provision is to be changed to the GH – 06 Matching State share of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Committee, therefore accordingly feels that the above requirements may be taken into consideration at appropriate stage. The Committee also recommends that additional amount of Rs.347.15 Crores may be considered for being provided in the Budget 2013-14, to cover 1,00,000 Ha., additional area on request of farmers, who availed the subsidy. The Committee further recommends that Fruit plantations dried up due to severe drought may be included in the Insurance Scheme. The Committee recommends that to provide one Cold Storage facility in each mandal atleast to store the fruits and vegetables for the benefit of farmers, where vegetables are produced. The Committee recommends to provide additional posts of Horticulture officers @ one Horticulture Officer for (2) Mandals and (1) ADH for every MLA's Constituency. The Committee recommends enhancing the subsidy on vegetable seeds from 50% to 75% to encourage the farmers. The Committee

also recommends providing weather based Insurance Scheme to coconut & Cashew nut crops. The Committee further recommends publicizing the activities of Horticulture Department for the benefit of Horticulture farmers.

### **Conclusion**

Agriculture in the state is already diversifying toward HVCs. However, if this is to continue smoothly, a comprehensive strategy needs to be evolved, which involves a whole new set of technologies, infrastructure, institutions, and policies. The current agricultural policy thrust is founded on the philosophy of ensuring food self-sufficiency and does not provide much emphasis on the role of diversification towards high-value agriculture. For agricultural diversification to succeed, the real challenge lies in effectively linking the farmers, especially smallholders to the markets since they have small marketable surplus and hence incur high transaction costs. While it is necessary to provide assured markets and stable prices to the farmers, it is also important to establish backward linkages through existing institutional arrangements such as contract farming.

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