



## Horticulture Production in J&K: A Case Study in District Ramban

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### Abstract

Horticulture is one of the vital sectors of Jammu and Kashmir and contributes immensely to the GDP of India in general and j&k in particular. This sector strengthens the financial circumstance of people's related to it and additionally, help in poverty relief, employment generation, source of earning livelihoods and different developmental factors of the Union Territory of j&k. Horticultural products of J&K has earned world-huge fame because of its suitable high-quality and flavor. The fruit plants are grown here like apple, walnut, almonds, pears, cherries and apricots in temperate regions and mango, Papaya, citrus, litchi, guava and many others in subtropical areas are regarded all over the globe. Saffron cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir is unique, precise and exclusively production exporting throughout the worlds as best saffron produced.

**Keywords:** Horticulture production, employment, export, people's changing attitude, economical development and financial improvement.

### Introduction

*"Mughal emperor Jahangir once commended that "if their is a paradise on the earth it's here, it's here, it's here"*

Jammu and Kashmir has a total land area of 2416 thousand hectares, of which only 31 percent is suitable for cultivation and the rest is under the demarcation of forests or other land-use purpose. Out of the total cultivated area, only 40% is under irrigation. The Jammu and Kashmir comprises valley, plains, foothills, mountains, plateaus and kandi areas. The plains of Jammu is an extension of the great north Indian plains rising from Punjab and extending towards the foot hills of Shivalik.

The Shivalik hill is a mountain range of the outer Himalaya which merges into the Pir Panjal range. The Pir Panjal range separates the Jammu region from the Kashmir valley. Kashmir valley is situated between Pir Panjal range and Zaskar range by forest covering high mountains, lakes, waterways, and terraced fields. The valley region is generally bounded on all sides by mountains with average height of the valley is 1615 m but the surrounding mountains rising from 3000 to 4900 m by covering the Valley with enormous lakes and springs.

### Horticulture in J&K: A significant contributor to economy of J&K

Jammu and Kashmir's Horticulture is quietly showing development because the yearly pay produced by means of the natural product enterprise has gotten over Rs 10,000 crore, contributing 8% to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

Horticulture having ample possibilities for established order of agro-industries and thereby producing sufficient employment avenues. The authorities of India in addition to the J & K government is eager to expand the area under horticulture sector.

This area can transform the economic system of UT notably over the following decade by means of growing job possibilities, growing the manufacturing to most financial boom, ecological improvement, and poverty alleviation of the UT.

3.33 lakh hectares of the Total area in j&k is under fruit cultivation (2020\_21). A manufacturing of 20.35 lakh MTs (2020-21) has been recorded.

Horticulture production assumes a significant component in J&K and contributes basically to the Economy and is a supply of livelihood for 33 lac people's.

Horticulture development is one of the thrust place and some of programmes have been implemented, ensuing in the technology of higher incomes in the rural areas, thereby improving the of life people's in the villages.

The type of Horticultural merchandise of J&K has earned world-wide repute due to its good quality and flavor.

It is for the primary time, 2000 vehicles of fruits per day have been exported from Jammu and Kashmir to distinctive parts of country and throughout world.

Apple marketplace has also reached 8000 crores and is changing the lives of 30 lakh people's. The area under cultivation of fruits in Jammu and Kashmir accelerated from 2.21 lakh hectares in 2001 to 3.33 lakh hectares in the end enlisting an increment of 1.22 lakh hectares in twenty year.

Horticulture play a crucial function in the GDP improvement of the nation. The fruit plants grown in the state are apple, almonds, walnuts, pears, cherries and apricots in temperate regions and mango, citrus, litchi, papaya, guava and many others In subtropical regions. Saffron cultivation in the Kashmir is precise and one-of-a-kind production In the world.

In 2019-20, the total production of horticulture crops within the J&K was 3.91 million metric tonnes (MMT) and the area under cultivation became 400.25 thousand hectares.

Out of total horticulture production, the total manufacturing of fruits changed into 1.34 million metric tonnes (MMT) cultivated over 60 thousand hectares, the total manufacturing of end result become 2.54 million metric tonnes (MMT) cultivated over 330 thousand hectares, and the entire production of different horticulture crops inclusive of aromatic & medicinal flowers became 10 metric tonnes (MT) cultivated over four thousand hectares.

J&K's share in the natural apple production in India was 76.25%, with the overall production of apples achieving round 1.74 million metric tonnes (MMT).

J&K is having a monopoly in saffron cultivation in India nearly 7.3 percentage of the sector's saffron is produced, which puts India at the second rank in international saffron manufacturing with general manufacturing estimated to be around 16 metric tonnes (MT).

J&K contributes to 98 percent of the total walnut production in India with a manufacturing of around 266 thousand metric tonnes (TMT).

J&K is the most important manufacturer of Almonds in India with a share of close to 70 percent and overall production of 12.93 thousand metric tonnes (TMT).

J&K produced 31.45 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) of plants of which 27 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) have been unfastened flora and 4.45 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) had been reduce flowers. Orchids with type of fruit flowers advanced across hilly district.

### **A case study take a look at Ramban district**

Ramban is one of the hilly districts in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, endowed with appropriate climatic conditions for fostering vegetation and timber. The climatic conditions range in step with the altitude In low lying areas like Ramban city temperature is going up to 42°C and in excessive levels it drops to even sub zero stage. This climatic version has broadened the scope for developing sorts of fruit and non fruit bearing trees.

At present the district has been divided into four horticulture zones i.E. Ramban, Ramsoo, Banihal and Gool that are in particular developing walnuts, apple, apricot, pears, peach etc. With the untiring efforts of departmenr and plantation by locals the area under cultivation of Pecan nut, Olive, Plum, Kiwi, Strawberry, persimmon and so on has additionally been endorsed.

Out of the total land in the district, 10461.94 hect has been utilize for growing fruit and nut plants. In the year (2019\_20), 19742 metric heaps of production changed into recorded. This shows that horticulture sector is bringing sea change in the life of people's day by day.

The primary motive for focusing on horticulture zone is due to the sloppy, hilly and rough topographical conditions of this district in which agriculture area finds constrained scope for its improvement and as a consequence prosperity of the negative human beings lies with horticulture.

The humans even as sitting at domestic inspite of little information can increase their profits by means of planting kind of fruits.

It turned into the time while people had been totally depending on maize and some different crops to feed their circle of relatives and had been least bothered for fruit and nut plantation.

But for the closing some years they have got advanced ardour for developing fruit plants with the assist of horticultural department. The officers and officials regularly interact and meet with locals enriched with unique rules and innovative techniques right from seedling to garage of manufacturing.

**Walnut:** The foremost crop grown in district Ramban is walnut. Around 5193.70 hect of land is getting used for growing walnut crops and round 7247.17 metric tons heaps of production have recorded in the year 2015-20.

This definitely vindicates that there may be a big ability for developing wide styles of walnut. Major walnut developing regions are Pogal Paristan, Senabati, Hochak, Panchal, Trigam, Neel and Sangaldan. In these areas the farmers are earns a very good livelihood from the walnut cultivation.

No doubt, Kashmir province is well known for producing the walnut but on the identical time it's miles very proper to mention that district Ramban also can produce superior qualities of walnut. Besides this district, walnut is also produced in some parts of district Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch together with the hilly areas of district Reasi. Among some of these districts, top production of walnut comes from Ramban.

“From Pogal Paristan walnut is offered from the plant life which are grown with the help of domestically prepared manure” stated Bashir Ahmed Naik an orchardist of Maligam, Ramban.

Walnut plants normally deliver rise to sparkling shoots at some point of April and May whilst new leaves sprout and vegetation blossom.

The ripening of crop takes place in the months of September and October. The accrued fruit is separated from outer shell and dried on roof tops after a slight wash in water. After drying they're packed in bags and offered to the market

“I purchase walnuts from Gool, Sangaldan, Pogal Paristan, Neel, Khari, Banihal. Besides this I additionally accrued the crop from Doda and Kishtwar however the first-rate best of walnut is found in Ramban whose kernel is ideal in length and taste” said, Farooq Ahmed Wani, a fruit contractor.

Another fruit contractor particularly Abdul Subhan instructed that he had bought walnut from Alanbas, Maligam and Pogal and offered within the Jammu market whose kernel is of higher quality.

The department authorities regularly go to the orchards and unfold cognizance approximately the strategies and nearby ways of developing the walnut.

Occasionally the camps are also prepared to educate the locals approximately current strategies of getting better manufacturing from the plantation.

Every 12 months farmers approach the horticulture department for extension in their fruit orchards and nurseries.

At Banihal, Mohammad Ashraf Khan is running a Walnut Processing Unit wherein round 200 people's inclusive of boys and girls are earning their livelihood. In this plant, the kernels are extracted from the walnuts.

These kernels are graded, vacuum packed in ten brands like Albera No. 1, Raja Evergreen, Raja rare, Raja everlasting, Akbar the Great etc. Before exporting. The owner of the unit also said that walnut of crores is bought every year from the neighborhood farmers for the markets in Jammu, Delhi, Chennai, Gujrat and many others.

**Apple:** After walnut, comes apple whose plantation covers nearly 2773.30 hect of land for annual production of around 7534.72 metric tons. The major varieties of apple are produced in this district are Red scrumptious and Golden Delicious and many others. The neighborhood fruit growers are furnished with dealing with gadgets by means of the branch for grading and packing of the apples that are offered directly to markets of Jammu, Punjab and Delhi. It is likewise presenting source of earnings to many people.

**Olive:** Olive plantation spreads upto 10.80 hect of land from which 1.07 metric tons manufacturing is made every year. Besides this, the branch is also strolling an olive extraction unit at Govindpura Ramban to promote olive plantation. This unit is providing facility of extraction of olive oil freed from fee to the olive growers.

**Pecan nut:** Since pecan nut can fetch extra price than walnuts. Thus, experiments are being made regularly to develop pecan nuts in a few elements of this district.

**Pears:** The department is regularly testing the high yielding kinds of pear plant life to provide economic blessings to the area people. The department is providing unfastened

grafting facility to the farmers to enhance the wild pears (Kainth) developing at the uncultivated agriculture land.

**Wild Pomegranate (Anar dana):** Pomegranate is likewise produced on this district particularly in (Harrogh, Dharamkund, sangaldan, tangar and kanga) The department has advanced its low cost sun driers to dry the Anar dana economically.

Around 1295.69 metric heaps of production was made in 2015-20 inside the vicinity from Peera to Kanga measuring approximately 340.42 hect of land.

To sell exceptional fruits, Advance Centre for horticulture development turned into established in Ramban with the assist of Indo-Italian culmination venture in 1984-85. The department is also engaged in growing unique culmination like Olive, Plum, pear, Kiwi, Strawberry and many others. In this centre many green residence hello-tech canopies had been evolved to supply pleasant planting material.

Grafting of walnuts, Kiwi and Stone culmination is also encouraged there and round 5.50 lakh flora have been furnished to Patanjli Yog Peeth for compact plantation in the year 2015-20.

There are four nurseries of Walnut, peach, apple and pecan nut at Gool, Sangaldan, Batote and Nowgam to promote plantation in these regions. In these nurseries better varieties of flowers are grown with the assist of grafting. From those nurseries vegetation are provided to the people on very low charges. Every year there may be a continuous enlargement in planting special kinds of fruit bearing trees and now humans are locating better financial avenues in horticulture area.

## Conclusion

To be concluded by examine well-knowns how that horticulture sector is a notably contributing industry in the Jammu & Kashmir. Due to better return on horticulture production, farmers shift from food grain manufacturing to valuable crop. Horticulture area make contributions 7 percent to country home product and 45% of agriculture returns in the agricultural region.

Proper advertising facilities ought to take delivery of the fruit grower in the state. An export zones ought to be inspire to be set up within the country in order that the export of horticulture end result may be promoted. For the boom prospect of this sector the agriculture region need not to produce only for food protection mode but it ought to look for generating merchandise like high cost end result, so that it may shift its strategy from food security mode to price addition.

For sustaining employment in the horticulture sector, state government should offer right advertising facilities to the cultivators. Government need to consciousness greater on studies and development activities inside the horticulture. There is an incredible want to put together a right vision and undertaking on horticulture. In order to reinforce the horticulture crop production country governments have to outline position virtually and mobilize useful resource to put money into this zone.

Agricultural universities have to take lead position in offering technical know-how to the horticulture crops growers in a systematic way, So that farmers are permit to boom the region under fruits cultivation . Organic farming additionally improves the quality of fresh and dry culmination which have excessive export capacity in global marketplace. Quality manage laboratories ought to be mounted to ensure the exporters the commodities to export that can get international general in foreign marketplace.

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