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HORTICULTURE SECTOR



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Foreword



The horticulture sector is a vital pillar of India's economy, playing a crucial role in enhancing nutritional security, generating rural employment, diversifying farm activities, and increasing farmers' incomes. In the fiscal year 2022-23, India produced approximately 355.48 million tonnes of horticultural produce, surpassing food grain production, which stood at 329.69 million tonnes. India leads globally in the production of several fruits such as mango, banana, guava, papaya, sapota, and aonla, and ranks second in the world in the production of fruits and vegetables. The country also maintains its dominance in spices, coconut, and cashew nut production, while successfully introducing new crops like kiwi, gherkins, kinnow, date palm, and oil palm for commercial cultivation.

The North Eastern Region of India, with its distinct agro-climatic conditions, holds significant potential for horticultural development. The region's varied topography and climate make it ideal for cultivating a wide range of fruits, vegetables, spices, and plantation crops. Horticulture has become an essential sector for improving livelihoods, driving economic growth, and promoting sustainable agriculture in the region.

In FY 2022-23, the NER produced 12.92 million metric tons of horticultural produce, contributing 3.63% to the country's total production. Assam, the largest producer in the region, accounted for 6.89 million metric tons, representing 53.30% of the region's output and 1.94% of the national production. Vegetables were the dominant category, contributing 52.11% of the region's total output with 6.73 million metric tons, followed by fruits at 38.44% (4.97 million metric tons). Spices made up 5.97% (0.77 million metric tons), plantation crops 2.38% (0.31 million metric tons), flowers 1.05% (0.14 million metric tons), and aromatics and medicinal plants 0.01% (1.91 thousand metric tons). Honey accounted for the smallest share, contributing 0.04% with 4.72 thousand metric tons.

This edition of the "NEDFi Databank Journal", titled "Horticulture Sector – Vol-II", focuses on the vegetables in the North Eastern Region as well as India. It is compiled with the latest available statistical data and graphical representations, offering comparative analysis and growth trends of various fruit crops across the region and the country. Additionally, it provides insights into the global fruit production landscape, highlighting the international scenario for key fruit crops.

We hope the information and data provided in this journal will be useful to our readers, stakeholders, and researchers. We extend our gratitude to all who have contributed to the compilation of this journal and look forward to your feedback and suggestions for further improvement.

PVSLN Murty

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