

A BRIEF NOTE ON THE STATUS OF HORTICULTURE - ACTIVITIES **IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT**

Anantapur district is drought prone district where crop failures due to failure of monsoons, erratic and scanty rain fall is a phenomenon as the district is located in the scanty rain fall zone and is rain shadow district. Groundnut is the major crop being cultivated in about **10 lakhs Ha** the major economy of the district and crop failure is a regular feature.

Anantapur district is suitable for cultivation of Horticulture Crops round the year and the quality of the Horticulture produce is the best, with good keeping quality, sweetness due to the natural advantages i.e. dry-arid climate and less rain fall. Sweet Orange, Sapota, Pomegranate, Ber, Mango, Banana, Papaya, Guava, Melons and Vegetables are the Major crops grown in the District.

The initiatives under National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), MNREGS – Horticulture Convergence Project and the prestigious AP Micro Irrigation Project the flagship programmes of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, changed the crop scenario and Horticulture revolution is taking place in the district.

The area under Horticulture crops is increasing year by year and crop diversification is taking place in a big way in the district from Agriculture crops to Horticulture crops mainly because of successive crop failures due to drought in Agriculture crops and better and sustainable returns in Horticulture crops.

Further, because of good rain fall in the district for the past five years but for 2009-10 and the prestigious irrigation projects being taken up by the Government of Andhra Pradesh under “**Jalayagnam**” the farmers are switching over towards Horticulture Crops and the Horticulture scenario has taken a new dimension, Horticulture revolution is taking place and Anantapur district is fast emerging as “**Fruit Bowl of Andhra Pradesh**” and marching ahead towards the goal “**Harithandhra Pradesh**”.

Introduction of new technologies i.e. Tissue Culture in Banana and Short duration crops like Water melon, Musk melon enhanced the productivity and income per unit area and the farmers are happy with the returns in Horticulture Crops.

The National Horticulture Mission initiatives like Area expansion, Rejuvenation of Old Orchards, Integrated Pest Management / Integrated Nutrition Management, High-density plantations, Organic farming and input support by way of quality plant material, fertilizers, pesticides, crop specific trainings, awareness programmes in co-ordination with ANGRAU Scientists, Exposure visits to innovations, coupled with Post Harvest Infrastructure support has given a new dimension to the Horticulture Sector in the district.

Horticulture Wealth in Anantapur District - Area in Ha.

Fruits	:	79258	Vegetables	:	12706
Spices	:	1500	Medicinal plants	:	240
Flowers	:	2728	Other Crops	:	8987

Total area under Horti. Crops : 105619 Ha.

Area, Production and Productivity of MAJOR FRUIT CROPS

Sl. No.	Name of the crop	Data as of 2009-10			
		Area in Ha.	Area in bearing Age (Ha.)	Production in MT Lakhs	Productivity in MT / Ha
1	Mango	6652	5460	0.38	07
2	Sweet Orange	49418	26972	4.05	15
3	Sapota	3879	2178	0.32	15
4	Pomegranate	3363	2538	0.39	15
5	Guava	1500	1200	0.18	15
6	Banana	7500	7500	4.13	55
7	Papaya	3200		2.40	75
8	Grape	290	180	0.04	25
	TOTAL - A	75802	46028	11.89	

With the National Horticulture Mission initiatives the district is forging ahead as fruit bowl of Andhra Pradesh and is stepping forward towards the Goal “**Harithandra Pradesh**”.

AREA BROUGHT UNDER HORTICULTURE CROPS UNDER STATE HORTICULTURE MISSION DURING THE PAST 5 YEARS

Sl. No.	Species	Area brought under NHM (in Ha)					Total in Ha.
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	
	Fruit Crops	2192	8634	11522	11570	3651	37669

The major fruits crops covered are Sweet Orange, Mango, Sapota, Pomegranate, Guava, Banana & Papaya. The plantations are coming up very well, the economy of Horticulture farmers is improving, employment generation is taking place in rural areas and the farmers are confident about their future with Horticulture crops.

RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)**OBJECTIVES:**

- To increase Area, Production, Productivity of vegetables through supply of hybrid vegetable seed. To promote new technologies i.e., Shade Houses for raising of seedlings and raising of high value vegetables in shade houses and poly houses.
- To ensure availability of vegetables through out the year at reasonable prices.
- To replace local varieties with Hybrid varieties for higher returns in a span of five years.
- To enhance income per unit area for sustainable returns.
- To provide nutritional security in rural areas by encouraging back yard gardening / Kitchen gardens by providing Vegetable Mini Kits on 90% subsidy.

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME - HORTICULTURE CONVERGENCE PROJECT

An extent of 20,000 acres has been brought under Fruits Crops with 100% assistance during the past 3 years under NREGS – Horticulture Convergence mainly for the benefit of the SF / MF / SC / ST assigned lands and valuable assets were created by way of fruit plantations for sustainable returns.

It is targeted to take up Horticulture plantations in an extent of 4602 Acres during 2010-11 in CLDP blocks and SC/ST own lands in identified 18 mandals. Three Departmental Computer Centres for established at Anantapur, Kalyandurg and Madakasira for implementing the programme.

OBJECTIVES:

- To help the farmers to mitigate the drought and earn steady income.
- To enhance rural lively-hood security of farmers BPL, **SC/ST** farmers.
- Permanent tree cover on lands reduces soil degradations and protects environment.

CROPS COVERED UNDER NREGS-HORTICULTURE PLANTATION PROGRAMME:

- Under Assured Irrigation : **Mango, Sweet Orange, Guava, Acid Lime, Sapota**
- Under Dry Land Horticulture: **Mango, Jamun, Custard Apple**
- Targeted Area - **4602 Acres** Area achieved so far - **4556 Acres**
- The area approved and the area achieved DCC wise is as follows:

DCC Name	Area approved (Acres)	Administrative sanctions issued (Acres)	Work commencement orders issued (Acres)
Anantapur	1702	1723	1723
Kalyandurg	2137	2070	2070
Madakasira	763	763	763
Gooty	289	202	202
TOTAL	4891	4758	4758

IMPORTANT MILE STONES ACHIEVED UNDER HORTICULTURE SECTOR DURING THE PAST 4 YEARS:

- **ANANTAPUR DISTRICT** stood first in implementation of National Horticulture Mission Programmes in the State for the past 4 years.
- Horticulture complex has been established with an outlay of **Rs.70 lakhs** at Rythu Bazar - All services under one roof (Horticulture, APMIP & RHTI).
- Regional Horticulture Training Institute has been established for Anantapur & Kurnool farmers in Rythu Bazar Complex.
- **19** Horticulture Resource Centre's were established with an outlay of **Rs.128 lakhs** under BRGF & Horticulture Funds for quality extension services to the farmers.
- Formation of crop specific growers societies (Grapes, Papaya, Pomegranate & Vegetables) to transform the farmers into entrepreneurs for better marketing.

- Establishment of society for promotion of Organic farming - Vermi Compost Farmers and buy back arrangements.
- Pilot Project - Establishment of nutritional gardens (planting of fruit plants and vegetable cultivation in backyards) in Indiramma Housing Colonies in Madakasira Constituency in convergence with NREGS & Horticulture to combat malnutrition in rural areas.

ACTION PLAN 2010-11

It is targeted to implement Horticulture programmes with an outlay of 26.63 crores towards subsidy under the following schemes for the benefit of Horticulture farmers in the district with priority to SF / MF / SC / ST farmers.

<u>NAME OF THE SCHEME</u>	<u>FINANCIAL OUTLAY</u>
STATE HORTICULTURE MISSION (SHM)	: 13.29 CRORES TOWARDS SUBSIDY
RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)	: 1.34 CRORES TOWARDS SUBSIDY
MNREGS – SHM CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME	: 12.00 CRORES TOWARDS SUBSIDY

The Physical & Financial targets for the district is enclosed vide Annexure-I & II.
The implementation of the programmes is under progress.

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