

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:551
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010
DATE PALM CULTIVATION
Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to promote date palm cultivation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the area of cultivation and the quantity of date palm produced annually, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the steps taken for promoting cultivation of date palm in the country including Tamil Nadu, State-wise;
- (d) whether there are any constraints in increasing production and extending the date palm cultivation area; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the supportive steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 551 DUE FOR REPLY ON 4TH MAY, 2010.

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. Date palm is a minor fruit crop grown in arid and semi arid climate. In India, Date palm is mainly cultivated in Kutch district of Gujarat. In Gujarat, the area under cultivation and production of Date palm during 2009-10 was estimated at 15758 ha and 116588 tonnes respectively. Date palm has been planted in 391.30 ha land in Rajasthan. The area under Date palm cultivation in other States is insignificant at present hence this information is not being compiled/maintained centrally. National Horticulture Mission (NHM) provides assistance to farmers for cultivation of Date palm @ Rs. 22,500/ha limited to 4 ha per beneficiary. The Government of Gujarat also promotes area expansion and export promotion of Date palm under their State Plan. National Horticulture Board (NHB) also supports Date palm cultivation through grant of back ended capital subsidy @ 25% of the project cost.

Government of Rajasthan is implementing a project on Date palm cultivation in western Rajasthan under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Some farmers are cultivating Date palm in a scattered manner in Tamil Nadu.

(d) & (e): Non availability of quality planting material is a major constraint in increasing the area under cultivation of Date palm. Date Palm Research Centres under All India Coordinated Research Project on Arid Zone Fruits located at Date Palm Research Station (DRS), SKRAU at Bikaner, Date Palm Research Station (DRS), Sardar Krushinagar Dantiwada Agriculture University, S.K. Nagar at Mundra, Kutch, Regional Fruit Research Station (RFRS) of Punjab Agriculture University at Abohar are conducting research work on Date palm cultivation. These Centres are providing planting material (offshoot) of Date palm and technical inputs to the Date palm growers. Government of Rajasthan is setting up Tissue Culture lab at Jodhpur to produce tissue culture plants of Date palm. Government of Gujarat is setting up Tissue Culture lab for Date palm under RKVY.