

## Horticulture

8.11 Acreage under horticulture—which includes fruits, vegetables, spices, floriculture and coconut – increased to 17.8 million hectares or about 10 per cent of gross cropped area of the country in 2004-05 from 16.3 million hectares in 2002-03 (Table 8.7). With a production of 164 million tonnes in 2004-05, the sector contributed 28 per cent of GDP from agriculture. The targeted growth rate during the Xth Plan for the sector is 8-9 per cent.

8.12 The importance of horticulture in improving the productivity of land, generating employment, improving economic conditions of the farmers and entrepreneurs, enhancing exports and, above all, providing nutritional security to the people, is widely acknowledged. With fruit and vegetable production of 49 MT and 85 MT, respectively in 2003-04, India was the second largest producer of both fruits and vegetables in the world. For example, India occupies first position in the production of cauliflower, second in onion and third in

cabbage. The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) was launched in May, 2005 as a major initiative to bring about diversification in agriculture and augment income of farmers through cultivation of high value horticultural crops. The programme which seeks to double horticultural production by 2011 has a target, in the 10th Plan, of bringing an additional area of 5.4 lakh hectare under horticulture, besides taking up programmes of rejuvenation, quality planting materials, high-tech cultivation, post harvest management, processing and marketing. Total outlay is Rs. 2,300 crore for the Tenth Plan and Rs. 630 crore for the financial year 2005-06.

8.13 Under the NHM, Action plans for 18 States and 4 National level agencies have been approved. Rs. 579.7 crore has been released to operationalise these action plans. New schemes for promotion of micro-irrigation, National Bamboo Mission and Central Institute of Horticulture for the North-Eastern Region are at advanced stages of approval.

**Table 8.7 : Area and production of major horticultural crops**

*(Area-Million hectare, Production-Million tonnes)*

Crops	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05*		2005-06*	
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
Fruits	3.8	45.2	4.8	49.2	5.0	53.1	5.2	57.6
Vegetables	6.1	84.8	5.9	84.8	6.1	91.6	6.3	99.4
Spices	2.4	2.9	2.4	3.8	2.5	4.1	2.6	4.4
Plantation Crops	3.0	9.7	3.1	13.1	3.2	14.1	3.3	15.3
Flowers	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Others	1.0	1.6	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1
Total	16.3	144.4	17.2	152.0	17.8	164.1	18.6	178.1

Source : National Horticulture Board. \* Estimated