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Spatial Status of Infrastructural Facilities in Horticulture Sector of Jammu and Kashmir 2011-12

Abstract

Keywords: Please Add Some Keywords

Introduction

India with diverse soil and climate comprises of several agro-ecological regions which produces a variety of horticulture crops. These crops form a significant part of the total agricultural produce in the country. This horticulture sector contribute to 28.5% to the GDP of agriculture and 52% of export earning in agriculture. Horticulture is the allied activity of main agricultural system. The state of Jammu & Kashmir is geographically governed by such conditions which are suitable for the cultivation of variety of fruit crops. Its diverse physiography provides the conducive environment to support the fruit crops ranging from sub tropical to temperate type. Horticulture contributes significantly in the economy of the state. The state produces about 3.8mMT of horticultural crops from an area of 0.30m.ha . The major horticulture production comprises fruits (58.73%) and vegetables (41.24%). In the present study an attempt has been made to understand the status of infrastructural facilities which equally contributes in the growth of this sector along with the natural factors.

Study Region

The Jammu and Kashmir is the northern- most state of India. The Jammu & Kashmir is situated between 32.17^o and 36.58^o north latitude and 73.26^o and 80.30^o east longitude. The total area of the State is 222,236 sq. kms. The state is 640 kms in length from north to south and 480 kms from east to west. The surrounding mountains, which are always snow-clad, rise from three to four thousand metres above sea level. It is located mostly in the Himalayan Mountains and shares a border with the states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab to the south. Jammu and Kashmir consists of three regions: the Jammu, the Kashmir valley and the Ladakh region. Jammu and Kashmir's economy is predominantly dependent on agriculture and allied activities. Horticulture plays a vital role in the economic development of the state. This sector is the next biggest source of income in the state's economy. In an attempt to improve the infrastructure in the state such as Metteled roads, Jammu and Kashmir railway link, Horticulture area under plant available, Canals, Storage capacity etc. In India, the total districts in the Jammu and Kashmir state is 22 and it's names as-Jammu, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Pulwama, Kupwara, Kathua, Rajouri, Udhampur, Kulgam, Doda, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Shopian, Poonch, Reasi, Kishtwar, Ramban, Samba, Srinagar, Leh and Kargil.

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Objectives

The objectives of the study are:

1. To investigate the status of horticulture over the 22 districts of the state.
2. The study emphasizes on the spatial variations in infrastructural facilities required for the growth of horticulture in the study region.

Role of Horticulture

Horticulture plays a key role in the Feed the Future Initiative with investments that seek to:

1. Realize the opportunities of horticultural development
2. Improve food security
3. Improve nutrition and human health
4. Provide opportunities for diversification of income
5. Advance economic and social conditions of the rural poor, particularly women

Methodology

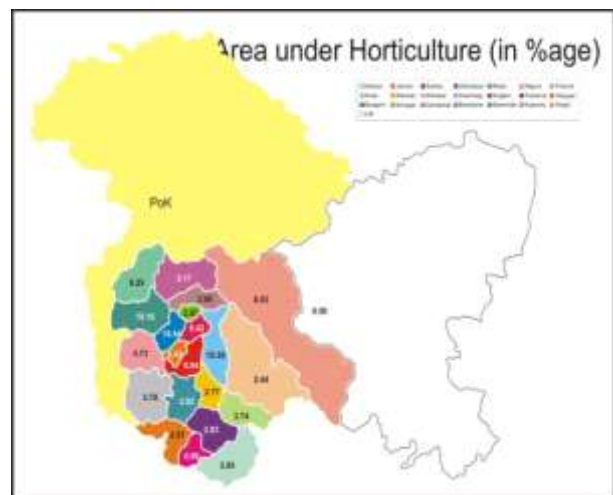
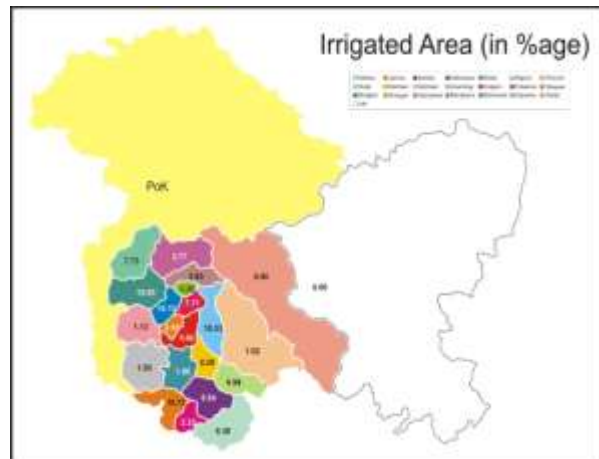
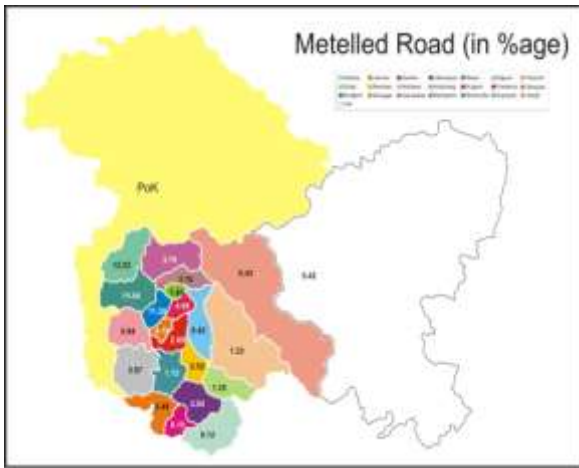
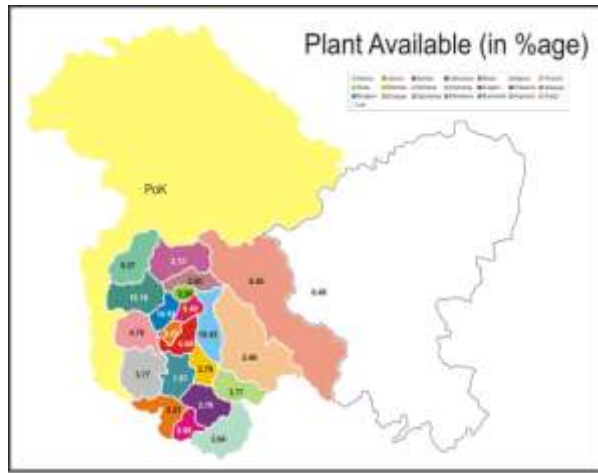
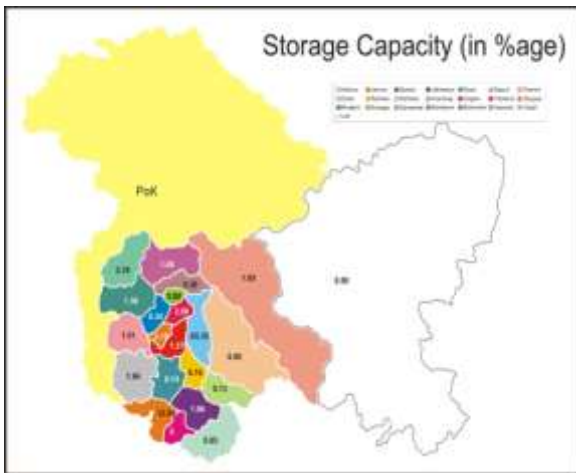
The present study is based on the secondary information wherein the statistical handbook 2011-12 was consulted. The relevant data pertaining to the selected indicators under study was recorded. As along with the natural factors the infrastructural factors also equally contribute significantly in growth of horticulture. The infrastructural factors such as storage capacity, no. of godowns, irrigational facilities, area under horticulture, no. of plants available, no. of plants distributed, export of fresh fruits etc are taken into account. In order to understand the status of the selected variables under the study the suitable statistical and cartographical technique were applied. The recorded data were put further in percentages and suitable mapping has been done to reflect the spatial variations of infrastructural factors over the space in context of growth and development of fruit crops in the study region

Spatial Status of Infrastructure Facilities 2011-12

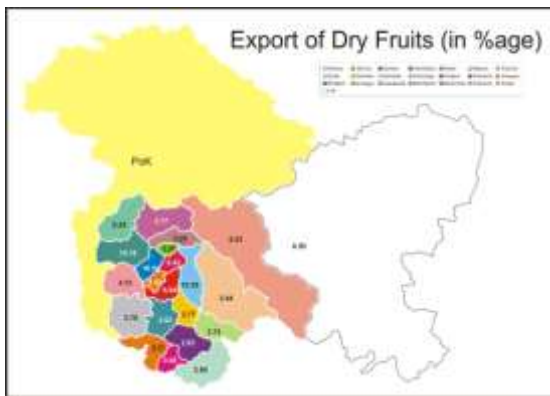
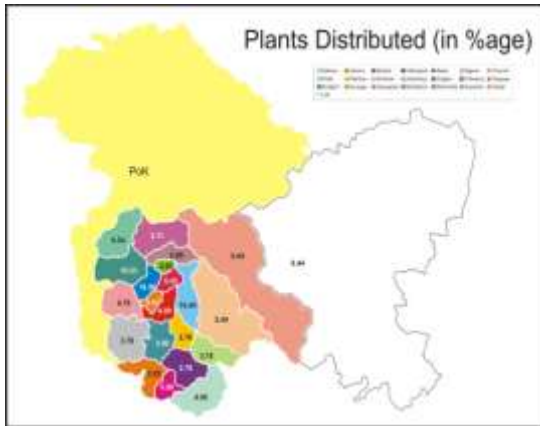
Districts	Storage Capacity (mmt)	No. of Godown (M.T)	Metteled Road (KMS)	Canal (000Ha.)	Area under Horticulture (000Ha.)	Plant Available (Lakhs)	Plant Distributed (Lakhs)	Export of Fresh fruits (M.T)	Export of Dry fruits (M.T)
Srinagar	0.03%	0.29	7.6	1.33	2.07	2.05	2	2.16	2.07
Ganderbal	0.38	1.77	2.7	3.83	2.95	2.95	2.89	3.08	2.95
Budgam	0.34	4.87	11.28	10.13	10.54	10.59	10.56	11.01	10.54
Anantnag	65.35	14.18	9.42	10.33	10.38	10.42	10.45	10.84	10.38
Kulgam	1.37	6.94	2.89	5.92	6.84	6.89	6.89	7.15	6.84
Pulwama	2.8	11.22	4.95	7.77	6.42	6.4	6.45	6.71	6.42
Shopian	2.1	7.53	4.1	4.93	8.62	8.62	8.67	9	8.62
Baramulla	1.36	6.05	15.54	10.65	10.16	10.18	10.23	10.61	10.16
Bandipora	1.68	2.65	3.79	3.77	2.17	2.13	2.11	2.27	2.17
Kupwara	2.34	5.16	12.02	7.73	9.25	9.27	9.34	9.67	9.25
Leh	0.98	1.18	5.42	0	0.5	0.49	0.44	0.52	0.5
Kargil	1.05	1.18	6.43	0	0.53	0.49	0.44	0.56	0.53
Jammu	12.54	17.72	0.49	18.72	2.21	2.21	2.22	2.31	2.21
Samba	0	0	0.18	2.32	0.98	0.98	0.88	1.02	0.98
Kathua	0.65	3.39	0.12	6.38	3.95	3.94	4	4.13	3.95
Udhampur	1.96	0.88	2.93	0.54	2.83	2.79	2.78	2.95	2.83
Reasi	0.14	1.77	1.13	1.08	2.02	1.97	2	2.11	2.02
Rajouri	1.96	5.31	2.87	1.05	3.78	3.77	3.78	3.95	3.78
Poonch	1.51	3.69	0.94	1.13	4.73	4.76	4.78	0.49	4.73
Doda	0.13	2.51	1.35	0.98	3.74	3.77	3.78	3.91	3.74
Kishtwar	0	0.29	1.23	1.02	2.44	2.46	2.44	2.55	2.44
Ramban	0.16	1.32	2.52	0.29	2.77	2.79	2.78	2.9	2.77

Source: Statistical Digest of Jammu & Kashmir (Yr: 2011-2012)

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Analysis and Suggestions

The adequate cold storage facilities are available for just 10% of Indian 's horticulture production . Out of the total annual production ,30-40 % is wasted before consumption. The similar kind of situation is prevailing in the study region the table reveals that the

area under horticulture is maximum in Budgam district of the state . The district has recorded 10.54%of area under horticulture whereas, the district is lacking in infrastructural facilities of like storage and godowns in the district. In case of Anantnag district which stands next to Budgam district in context of area under horticulture has registered the highest percentage of storage capacity and satisfactory position in other infrastructural variables under study. Similarly, the Baramulla district has good proportion of area under horticulture but its status regarding the infrastructural facilities contributing in the growth of horticulture sector in the state is not found satisfactory. Further, the Leh and Kargil districts have very marginal share of area under the cultivation of fruit crops although the geographical conditions in this region are conducive for the cultivation of variety fruits .In case of the tropical and subtropical belts of the study region which comprises the districts of Jammu, Samba, parts of Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri and Reasi the share of area under horticulture is very low as the Samba district has recorded the lowest of 0.98% of area under the cultivation of fruits in the study region. Further, geographically the district of Doda and Kistwar are having the suitable conditions for the growth of all types of temperate fruits, but the table shows that the districts are lacking behind both in case of area under cultivation of fruits as well as the other infrastructural facilities in the area. These two district are neglected by the state government and can contribute in horticultural activities as the district from Kashmir region are of the similar geographical condition as of in case of Doda and Kistwar.It is expected that entry of international retail chains would improve the situation by augmenting the storage capacities, transportation, processing facilities and through efficient distribution ,thereby minimizing wastage and benefiting the farmers and the consumer through a more coordinated and systematic approach.

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