

## *Introduction*

Karnataka State is situated between 15° 31' and 15° 19' North Latitudes and 75° 12' and 75° 42' East Longitudes and lies in the West-Central part of the Peninsular India. Its length from North to South is 700 Kms. And from East to West is 400 Kms. Karnataka State covers 5.83% of the total geographical area of the Country. As per the 2011 Census, the population of the State is 61 Millions.

According to “Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare database -2020” published the total Area and Production of Horticultural crops in India are 264.57 lakh hectares and 3199.69 lakh M.T. respectively. Karnataka State has occupied 1<sup>st</sup> place with an area of 23.82 lakh hectares under Horticulture contributing 9.01% to the total Horticultural Area of the country. The State stands 8<sup>th</sup> with 195.62 lakh M.T. of production contributing 6.11% to the total production of Horticultural Crops in the country.

The geographical area of Karnataka is 190.50 lakh hectares, of which cultivable area is 128.43 lakh hectares, constituting 67.42 % of the geographical area. Net area sown during the year 2019-20 was 108.05 lakh hectares. Out of this, Horticultural Crops covered 23.93 lakh hectares. Horticultural area in the State accounted for about 18.64% of the total cultivable area and 22.15 % of the Net area sown. Out of the total horticultural cropped area in the year 2019-20, Plantation Crops covered 12.10 lakh ha. (50.57 %); Vegetables were grown in 4.41 lakh ha. (18.43%); Fruit crops covered 3.98 lakh ha. (16.63%); Spice crops covered 3.08 lakh ha. (12.86%) and Commercial Flowers, Medicinal & Aromatic plants together occupied 0.36 lakh ha. (1.51%).

Accordingly, the total horticultural production in the State during the year figured at 200.46 lakh M.T. In this year, 70.83 lakh M.T. (35.33%) of Fruit Crops; 87.77 lakh M.T. (43.79%) of Vegetable Crops; 8.50 lakh M.T. (4.24%) of Spice Crops; 30.64 lakh M.T. (15.29%) of Garden/Plantation Crops and 2.72 lakh M.T. (1.36%) of Commercial Flowers, Medicinal and Aromatic crops were produced.

In recent years, due to the introduction of the high yielding varieties of crops, improved technology and also due to commercialization the productivity of horticultural crops has improved. Recently, efforts are being made by the Government of Karnataka to boost-up the agricultural exports, mainly of Horticultural produces like fruits, vegetables and flowers, through an effective Agricultural Policy.

This shows a clear indication that Karnataka is in the fore-front in the field of Horticulture. The number of Agricultural Operational Holdings in Karnataka is 86.81 lakhs and the area operated is 118.05 lakh hectares according to Agricultural Census 2015-2016. The First Revised Estimate (FRE) of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Karnataka for the year 2019-20 at current prices is Rs.16,28,928 Crores and GSDP from Agriculture Sector (including Crops, Livestock, Forestry & Fishing) is estimated at Rs.1,78,630 crores, contributing 10.97 % to the total GSDP of the State. The contribution of Horticulture sector to the total GSDP is 3.24%. The share of Horticulture in Agriculture Sector GSDP is 29.51%.

This publication is also available in the department website - <https://horticulturedir.karnataka.gov.in/>

