

# **AgriCos e-Newsletter**

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### **Dragon Fruit: World and Indian Production Scenario**

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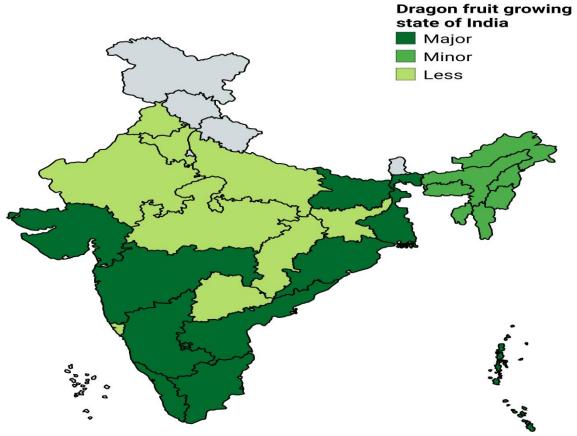
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#### **SUMMARY**

The global dragon fruit market is growing at a robust rate, owing to the increasing demand for fresh produce of dragon fruit. Dragon fruit is gaining popularity in India because of its nutritious and medicinal properties. Area under production of dragon fruit is increasing day by day in the world and in India as well. Vietnam is largest producer and exporter of dragon fruit in the world. It is commercially producing and exporting countries such as, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri-Lanka China, Israel, America, Mexico and Australia. Fruits of dragon crop fetch higher market price than that of other fruit crops.

#### INTRODUCTION

Dragon fruit, also known as pitaya or strawberry pear (Badma, *et. al.*, 2018), is a tropical fruit better known for its vibrant red skin and sweet, seed-speckled pulp. Dragon fruit is a climbing cacti, comes under genus *Hylocereus* belonging to Cactaceae family (Rao and Sasanka, 2015). The crop is hardy and can survive under any type of climatic condition. Mild humid climate favors flowering and fruiting. Sandy to sandy loam with proper drainage provides better growth and development of crop however loamy to clay loam soil initiates rotting at collar region of plant, which resulted into weakened plant system. Continuous wet humid climate promotes incidence of diseases (Jadhav *et. al.*, 2021). Dragon fruit if adopted in water scarce region can prove to be an asset to small holders as well as entrepreneur farmers (Babar, *et. al.*, 2021).



Dragon fruit can be survived under wide range of soil types (Karunakaran, *et. al.*, 2019). It is having better fast return ability as its perennial habitat. Dragon fruit even under dry conditions gives better fruit yield with higher economical returns as that of other fruit crops. It is regular bearer fruit crop hence it can provide steady income to the growers. Though the establishment of dragon fruit orchard is little bit costlier due to cement poles and trellis, but the returns from the produce reimburse the invested amount in fewer days. In local and international market these dragon fruits are much demanded. So, you can get the good returns from this dragon fruit cultivation (Mahorkar and Bahiram, 2019).

#### **Origin and Distribution**

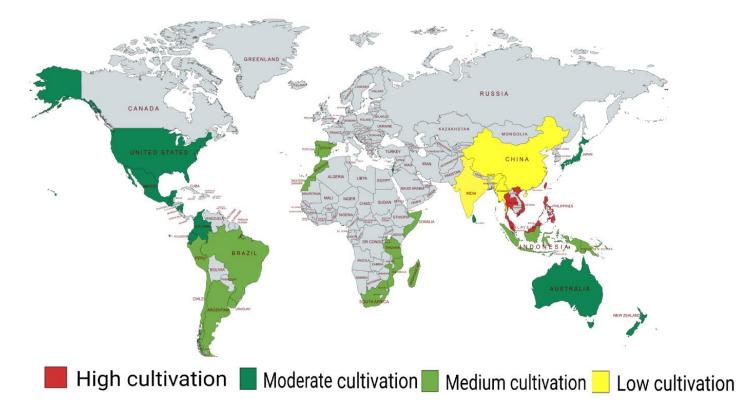
Dragon fruit is native of North, Central and South America (Luders and McMahon, 2006) and is mainly cultivated in countries such as, Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, China, Israel, America, Mexico, Australia and India. In India, the dragon fruit is grown to a limited area Such as Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Bihar Kerala, Orissa and Andaman & Nicobar (Babar, *et. al.*, 2021).

#### **Area and Production**

Vietnam is the world's largest producer of dragon fruit. The total area of dragon fruit cultivation in Vietnam is approximately 50,000 ha in 2020 and production in 2020 is 12,50,000 MT and is expected to cross 17,00,000 MT by 2025. China has recently embarked on large-scale planting, adding up to over 60,000 hectares of dragon fruit. Vietnam exports up to 80 percent of its harvest, primarily to China, and the largest consumer of this fruit is still China.

The total area under dragon fruit cultivation in India during 2016-2020 is 500-1000 ha, it can increase at the end of 2021 upto 10000 ha and production is not specified due to less cultivated dragon fruit area in India. The production of dragon fruit has the potential to grow further. India imports 95 percent of its demand for dragon fruit from Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. There is also great opportunity for this fruit to be exported to the Gulf Nations, USA and Europe.

In Maharashtra, dragon fruit is one of the newly introduced exotic fruit crop and cultivated area of less than 100 acres, it can be increases day by day (Jadhav *et. al.*, 2021).



## **Dragon fruit growing countries**

#### **Marketing**

The market price of dragon fruit ranged from 55-250 Rs/Kg depending on weight based. There are three main grade of dragon fruit A; >400 g, B; 200-400 g and C; <200 g. During the offseason, price persisted as high as 300-450 Rs/Kg for Indian dragon fruit. At present, wholesaler act as key player to the supply of domestic and imported fruits into retail market *viz.*, super market in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad and Bangalore (Wakchaure *et. al.*, 2020).

#### CONCLUSION

This review deals with the knowledge regarding area and production of dragon fruit based on literature and some of research findings in world production scenario so all become familiar with dragon fruit. The cultivation of dragon fruit can be adopted for semi-arid and rainfed areas of the country. Besides this, the ability of dragon fruit to withstand against

biotic factors like pests and diseases up to some extent can prove it a coming of age fruit crop. Fruits of this crop fetch higher market price than that of other fruit crops, hence dragon fruit is becoming more popular farmers.

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