

Dragon Fruit: World and Indian Production Scenario

Waghmare G. M.¹, Jadhav A. R.² and Shinde V. N.³

¹Associate Dean and Principal, College of Agriculture, Badnapur, VNMKV, Parbhani, (M.S.)

²Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Horticulture, VNMKV, Parbhani, (M.S.)

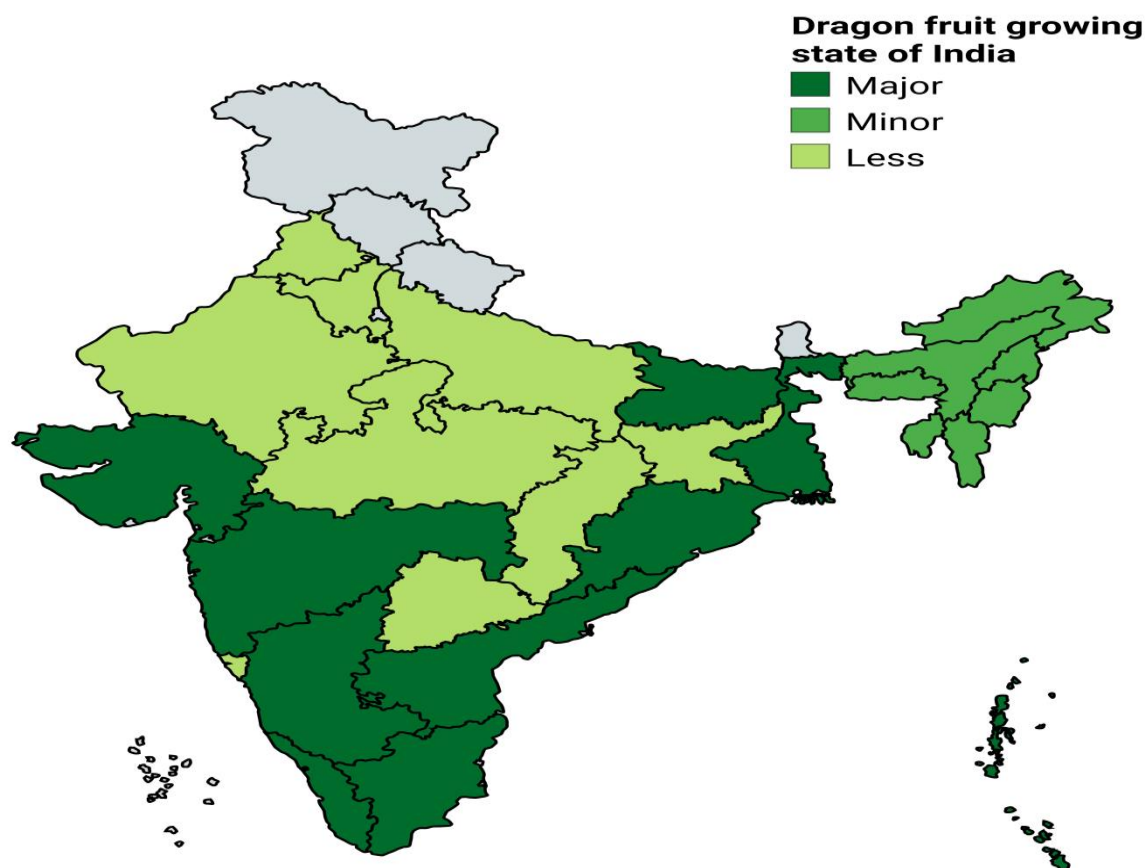
³Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, VNMKV, Parbhani, (M.S.)

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).

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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