

Department of Horticulture

Adopting a newer techniques for Date Palm cultivation

Project Name: A area expansion of Dates through tissue cultures raised plants

Back ground and Objectives:

Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) is one of the most important fruit crops cultivated in arid and semi-arid regions. It is distributed throughout the Middle East, North Africa, South Sahel, areas of East and South Africa, Europe, Asia and USA with approximately 150 million trees worldwide.

Date palm can be propagated sexually by seeds or asexually by offshoots. When grown from seeds, only 50% chance of having female, while from the offshoot, the progeny palms will be identical to its parent, but survival rate in the field is very low (<35%). So tissue culture is the method of choice to produce genetically stable planting material in large quantity

Date palm is cultivated for its high productivity and the high nutrient value of its fruit, for preserving ecosystems threatened by desertification and creating appropriate microclimate for agriculture under arid conditions. In addition, date palm cultivation generates considerable opportunities for rural employment, provides a major source of income for farmers and ensures livelihood and food security of the rural areas

With a view of datepalm cultivation adopting a tissue culture technology of this crop in Gujarat specially in Kuchh. As this aspect in Gujarat, Department of Horticulture adopting a new techniques through a proposed a project which is "Area expansion of Dates through Tissue culture raised plants"

Intervention and Outcomes:

Before this the price of Tissue culture date Palm is high and availability is Limited Because more number of Tissue Date Plants have been importing from other Countries, so with this project farmers get this plants with a subsidized rate so as per economics they get more price with quality basis as well production basis.

Here have proposed success story of adoption of tissue culture plants of datepalm in Kuchh District, which is below: Farmer : Rahul Pravinbhai Shah (Gala) live in Ratnal village, Anjar in Kuchh District. He was the 1st farmer in Kutch to Saw

Imported Dates. He has planted 10 Acre Plantation of Dates Palm before this he has been an expert in Farming of Date palm by attending different workshops of Date palm. From this adoption of tissue culture dates in his farm, he earns an average revenue from 1.5 to 2 Crore now a days as well also exports his dates to other countries.

