



महाराणा प्रताप बागवानी विश्वविद्यालय, करनाल-132001 (हरियाणा)

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Karnal,-132001 (Haryana)

(Established vide Haryana Act No. 32 of 2016)

Haryana State has excellent geographical location with its climate ranging from dry sub humid to arid along North-East and South-West and is ideally suitable for a wide range of horticultural crops. While the State has made significant progress in Agriculture, the swot analysis reveals that the State has lot of strengths for promoting diversification to horticultural crops which has been identified to play an important role in the future growth of economy of the country and State. Already horticulture sector contributes nearly 6% of the total GDP of agriculture in the State and there is considerable scope to improve this production.

Proximity to NCR with access to a number of national and international markets. Further, cultivation of mushrooms, honey production and production of specialty crops like baby corn, cherry tomato, strawberry, protected cultivation of quality vegetables and flowers has already picked up. There is also lack of quality control on seed and planting material. Besides, post-harvest management and marketing infrastructure are poor. Despite the above, Haryana State is fast emerging as one of the leading horticultural States and has made significant progress in this sector in recent years. The present area under horticulture is 4.23 lakh ha which is 6.34% of the total cropped area. It has also scope for further development of horticulture in the State with several programmes under operation. However, to further horticulture development programmes have to be farmer driven.

Keeping in view the demand for trained manpower in horticulture in the country in general and Haryana in particular, and to consolidate all horticulture R&D and teaching activities both in Undergraduate and Post graduate level a State University of Horticulture has been established at Karnal by the State government in 2016. It has been named as Maharana Pratap Horticultural University. As founder Vice-chancellor of this university it will be my endeavor to develop it one of best Centres of learning in the field of horticulture and allied sciences and it's my dream to nurture it as world class campus where latest technology available anywhere in the world and suitable to our conditions shall be brought tested and provided to the farmers of the State. Research on horticultural crops in Haryana, which is key to increasing productivity, shall be the primarily the responsibility of MHU, Karnal. Nothing seems more important in agricultural/horticultural development than the dissemination of latest agricultural information among the farmers. Print media plays an important role and effective role in disseminating latest know how in technology on agricultural research and related fields. Magazines helps in transferring the technology to the various stakeholders, it's a mixed bag full of bountiful information in various related fields.

I am glad to learn that "Just Agriculture" a popular magazine is doing a yeoman service to the farming community by publishing need based popular articles on various aspects. It is widely circulated amongst

the end users. I congratulate the editorial board of the magazine for their devoted work and their continuous enthusiasm. I also take this the opportunity to congratulate and best compliments to the learned authors from the core of my heart, as the article submitted by them are of high standard and also our valuable readers who learn and provide feedback for the improvement of magazine. FAO has decided to celebrate the year 2021 as International Year of Fruits and Vegetables. It will be a unique opportunity to raise awareness on important role of fruits and vegetables in nutrition, food security and human health. I also aim to reduce food loss and waste and promote sustainability and safety of the fruits and vegetables value chain. "Just Agriculture" should highlight this great event and bring out special issues on various aspects of fruits and vegetables by inviting special articles from eminent scientists working in the relevant field and having experience to commensurate the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021 in a big way.

I convey my best wishes to all the members of editorial board of esteemed magazine "Just Agriculture" for the success in disseminating information.



Vice-Chancellor

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University

Karnal 132001