

Quality Management in Horticulture

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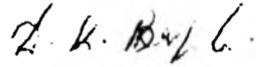
Foreword

Albeit the world agriculture is being transformed with unfathomable pace, it is yet to earn the capability of feeding millions of hungry bowls adequately and appeasingly. The biological volume being expected of the modern agriculture is far from meeting the basic needs and demands to earn the decency of life and livelihood. Securing nutrition, keeping the ecology pristine and fertile are also of immense gravity without which modernity and capability of agriculture would be rendered harshly questionable, especially to the upcoming generations. Seventy two per cent of Indian children have been found clinically anemic, forty per cent of the farmers are ready to quit agriculture as occupation and most of the front line crops have started plateauing in their production and productivity. And lastly, thirty thousand farmers committed suicides because, for them, dark death is a better choice to a bleak destiny.

With this backdrop we have to go desperate in making our agricultural enterprise enough fertile and resilient to sustain the dream of a decent livelihood along with nutritional security, educational attainment and empowerment of women. For deriving the best option from the worst of situation, the option is to go on adding more and more values to our agriculture as well as horticulture, gone badly depleted by convention, coercion and contradiction.

The book, *Quality management in Horticulture*, by Dr. A. B. Sharangi and Prof. S. K. Acharya, has rightly landed on the valley of risk and ripples. We need more quality and value to be added to the biological volume to catch up with the global competition and at the same time, to create buoyancy in the fiscal market. Thus, value addition and quality management have become a diode of response both to the hungry bowels and hungry market. Right at this moment we find no choice but to alleviate our meager contribution of 1.2 per cent, or even below, to the global agri-horti market. The skills, acumen and mettle of value addition as well as quality management in horticultural crops per se as has been written in

the book illustriously, shall be of immense utility to the scientists, professionals, scholars and managers of agri-horti-enterprises. Hope a good dawn shall visit this new born baby.



Prof. D K Bagchi

Vice Chancellor

Mohanpur, Nadia, WB

December 25, 2006

Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya

About the book

In the changing global scenario, the issue of quality and safety of agricultural as well as horticultural produces has earned tremendous importance. The volume of biomass production has got little to do with the generation of income and livelihood unless it is being implanted and impregnated with desired attributes for becoming befitting in the vast and changing demand system encompassing both fiscal and international market. So the book as designed would be of immense utility to the students of agriculture, horticulture and allied aspects, to the extension professionals, corporate houses, academicians, researchers as well as micro-entrepreneurs.

About the authors

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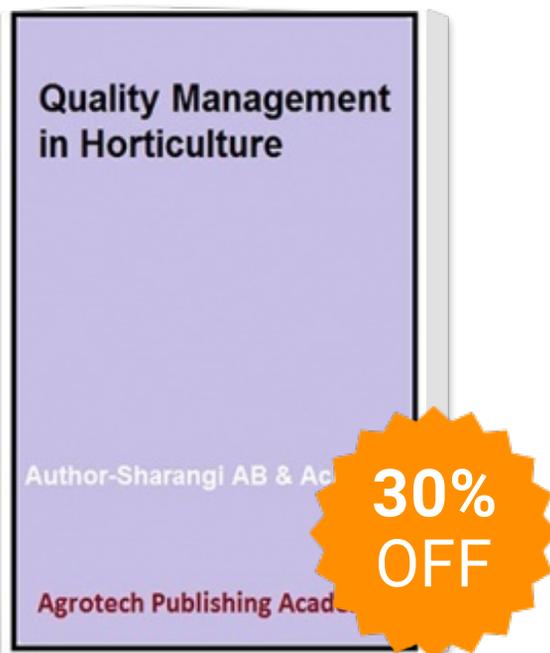
Introduction

At the beginning of the eighty's in the last century, the global economy got off to a startling change by restructuring the global trade and economic relations vis-a-vis socio-political configuration per se. Never in the annals of global economy had the regime of WTO through its GATT been in a suabuckling role. The patent laws, imposition of sanitary and phytosanitary codes, reversals of tariffications, food safety and codex elementary, fiscal economy for refocusing subsidy policy- all have taken the present day agriculture both by norms and storms.

With the progress of sequel of changes the role of value addition to the process of biomagnifications has earned importance of all time elevation. The choices for making and getting any economy deterrent of extraneous impact have gone by. So, choicelessly we have to open our indigenous production system to the global market. It has got diode of impacts; one way we need to change our indigenous production system, the other way round, we have to keep the process of standardization of the biological mass produced by agricultural, animal resource and horticultural sectors constantly unfolding to touch the international level.

The country a small nation like Colombia while occupying thee global market for cut flowers to the tune of 30%, India's contribution to the same market runs at a poor plight i.e., below 1% level. Our 'reputation' for wastage of agricultural and horticultural produces, from production to consumption line, has claimed some 30 thousands crores of rupees per year. It is happening when our contribution to the global agricultural market is only 1.6 per cent.

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