



## Shri Shamanuru Shivashankarappa

**Minister for Horticulture and Agro Marketing,  
Government of Karnataka**

### **What are your main achievements as Horticulture Minister in Karnataka?**

Karnataka is currently placed second in horticulture performance. We got an award this year from the central government as best horticulture state. Horticulture is greatly developed in Karnataka. Now we have proposed to develop additionally, more than 50,000 square hectares. Horticulture department offers heavy subsidy to encourage farmers for crops like sapota, grapes, pomegranates etc. For about 32 horticulture crop varieties, we are offering subsidy. We are also giving subsidy for drip irrigation - almost 90% subsidy is available for drip irrigation. This apart, there are other beneficial schemes as well.

### **What are the other policy initiatives you have taken to promote horticulture?**

We are promoting the concept of a farmer company. This will be on a public private partnership basis. Farmers in a particular region form a group of 1000 members, they pay Rs 1000 each. From government side we are funding with Rs 10 lakhs. Central government is paying Rs 10 lakhs and NABARD also will be pooling with 10 lakhs. So a total of Rs 40- 50 lakhs is planned to be raised as capi-

tal. Farmers can then independently purchase agri inputs like fertilizers and distribute among themselves. Also we would be paying for salary, training and getting them the required APMC license so that this "farmer company" can independently handle its business activity. This is one such special initiative and this is one of the reasons why we deserved to win the national award as the best horticulture state.

### **What about fluctuating prices for horticulture farmers? Banana farmers in Karnataka were recently unhappy when their prices crashed. Your comments?**

Yes, this problem with market prices continue to haunt farmers. Not only banana, getting good prices for other crops like tomato, orange also, at the end of the harvest continues to bother. We are trying to solve this by constructing additional cold storages. I have asked the horticulture department officers to take steps to construct more number of cold storages wherever necessary. We are also looking at irradiation techniques to increase shelf life by removing the water content. If we will be able to increase the shelf life, then farmers will not have to face a situation when they have to sell the crop when prices are very low.

### **You are a very senior Congress leader in Karnataka. After all these years in public life how do you think we should remember your political legacy.**

You have to do good things. You should not be corrupt. You should help the common people and do something to solve their problems. If you don't, then they will simply send you back.

*As told to Kartik Isvarmurti, Managing Editor  
kartik@vmg.net | 080-46621600*

## **Department of Horticulture, Karnataka – Update of activities**

**Total farming families in Karnataka are 78.2 lakhs of which nearly 20 lakh farming families are dependent on horticulture sector. On an average, Horticulture produces worth of about Rs. 8500 crores are exported from Karnataka every year. Detailed report provided by Director of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka.**

**Introduction:** Horticulture sector has been considered as a sunrise sector in Karnataka. Karnataka State is considered as Horticulture State in the country owing to its excellent soil and climatic conditions and multifaceted expertise in the sector. During 2014-15 the State had 20.05 lakh hectares under horticulture crops with a total production of 169.40 lakh tons. Karnataka stands 3rd in farming area and 7th in production in the country. The distribution of different crops is as under.

The average productivity of horticulture crops in Karnataka is 8.45 MT/ Ha. The area under horticulture crops has been increasing @ 5% every year in Karnataka. While, the production has been increasing @ 9% annually. This increase in production has contributed to 43% of the income generated from the agriculture and allied fields. The income generated from horticulture crops works out to about Rs. 36000 crores as against total income of Rs. 1.2 lakh crores

from agriculture sector.

Total farming families in Karnataka are 78.2 lakhs of which nearly 20 lakh farming families are dependent on horticulture sector. On an average, Horticulture produces worth of about Rs. 8500 crores are exported from Karnataka every year. Karnataka is considered as seed production hub of horticulture crops. The required seeds of different crops are produced by many multi-national companies which are supplied to different districts in the Karnataka and also exported to several foreign countries.

**I) State Horticulture leadership:** i) Comprehensive Horticulture Development (CHD): The Department of Horticulture is a pioneer in introducing CHD scheme in the year 2012-13, which is first of its kind in the country where end to end solutions are provided to the farmer. Under this scheme, 2-3 villages in each sub block are selected.....

*Read full article online at : <http://bit.ly/1mYNXSI>*