

## **STATE OF ART HORTICULTURE FARM: SHERGAON**

“Where there is will there is way “, it has been proven by the Horticulturist N. Lobsang in Shergaon Horticulture farm. This story of bold initiatives yielding literally Sweet fruits and net positive yield is one that should be precedent for all.

But all is not well as no matter how much efforts one puts in the might and will of the State has to give a push in form of resources, for the larger interest.

There use to be lot of Pilferage and low yield was the norm for the Shergaon farm but with the initiatives started by the Horticulturist majority of things have been set right.

System of grading and packing of Apple fruits in the field has been introduced with 3 nos. electronic weighing machines ( 2 for farm and 1 for sales counter at Bomdila) procured to ensure correct weighing of farm produce mainly apple fruit for the benefit of consumers as well as to prevent loss of revenue. Previously weighing- balance with big wooden boards were used which lacked accuracy and source of pilferage also.

The system of packing apple fruits in egg cartons was introduced along with the system of delivering harvested and graded fruits in egg cartons from the field to the store accompanied by introduction of delivery challan from field to the store keeper, further plugging pilferage and ensuring accountability.

The selling price of Apple in 2011 was at Grade-I @ ₹ 35/- and lowest Grade-IV @₹ 10/- per kilogram, which has been revised twice by board to finally 1. Special Grade @₹ 100/-2.Grade -1 @₹ 80/- 3.Grade2 @₹ 60/- 4.Grade 3 @₹ 40/- and 5. Grade 4 @₹ 30/-per Kg.

There was huge gap between prices of Apple fruit in the market, farmer's selling rate and government farm rate which lead to loss of government revenue and problem faced by Apple farmer's in marketing their produce.

Since 2011-12, the rate of fruits and other produce of SHF , Shergaon has been revised at 2-3 years interval to eliminate above lacunas and to enable the apple growers to fetch better earning with a view to increase the number of Apple growers, with Apple farming as a profitable venture.

The Nursery itself has been logically overhauled. Different plots for have been developed for different rootstock types to prevent mixing (even by mistake).

Barren field has been developed to be used as mother block for multiplication of M-9 apple dwarfing rootstock and preparation of grafted apple plants with early fruit bearing in 3 years as compared to conventional plants taking in 5 to 6 years bearing fruit.

Collection of clonal rootstocks for apple like Dwarf: M-9Semi Dwarf: M-7 and MM-106, Vigorous: MM-111, and Merton -793.

Developed Mother block for Apple and Walnut with CITH (Central Institute of temperate Horticulture) Series grafted walnut plants and grafted Apple and rootstocks from Kashmir) to be used for taking scion woods for grafting and multiplication of promising varieties. Initiated grafting of walnut plants since 2014, success rate has been very low for want of Hi-tech greenhouse with controlled atmosphere system. Grafted Walnut plants plant come to full bearing stage in 5 years as compared to seedlings taking 9-10 years to fruits raising grafted and Budded Good quality Pear(Starkrimson and Red Bartlett varieties on seedlings raised from wild pear (Pyrus Pashia) available in Shergaon valley. Also propagated and multiplied clonal rootstock for Pear - Quince (Cydonia).

With initial failure, recent test have been successful in raising seedlings of Sweet Chestnuts from 2014.

From 2014 started raising local Peach seedlings and grafting of Plum and Improved varieties of Peach have been started.

Also started raising local persimmon seedlings for use as a rootstock to graft and improve non astringent cultivars of Persimmon.

12. Started a plant propagule multiplication nursery for medicinal plant Paris Polyphylla which is fast declining from the forest area due to destructive harvesting and excessive collection from wild.