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Research Article

Evaluation of Fig Varieties in Southern Zone of Telangana

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ABSTRACT

Five varieties of Fig (Ficus carica L.) were evaluated for fruit yield and yield attributing traits from 2001-2008 at Arid Horticulture Research Station, Kondamallepally, Nalgonda district of Telangana. The varieties tested are Hindupur, Mysarum, Poona, Royal, Barkas. Critical examination of the data revealed that the variety Poona has exhibited the highest cumulative yield (32.1kg/plant) over seven years followed by Royal with 24.4 kg/plant.

Key words: *Fig, Varietal evaluation, Fruit yield.*

INTRODUCTION

Fig (*Ficus carica* L.) belongs to family Moraceae is a nutritive fruit with nutritional index value of 11. Fig is the rich source of minerals especially calcium and fibres. The fruits can be consumed fresh, dried, preserved, candied or canned but great bulk of it is consumed as dried figs. Fig is a small moderate sized semi deciduous tree, growing 6-8 m high with short twisted trunk with irregular branches. Fig fruit is botanically syconium which consists of a fleshy receptacle with a narrow aperture at the tip and a number of small flowers lining in the inner surface. The true fruits are tiny drupelets inside the cavity of fused peduncle. The individual flowers are pistillate and develop parthenocarpically (Meghawal 2009). Fig is a important fruit crop which can be successfully grown in arid and semi arid regions with less irrigation. This can be cultivated in wide range of soils but well drained soils with moisture holding capacity are ideal for fig cultivation. In India, fig is cultivated in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The important cultivars of common fig are Poona, Adriatic, Black Ischia, Brown turkey, Hindupur, Mysarum, Barkas Royal, Deanna and so many are available. The varietal suitability varies from region to region and a lot of variation is observed in the size, colour and in physico chemical properties of fruits.

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The variety Dinakar was found best with fruit yield of 10-15 kg per plant with large fruit size and with high TSS (12-14 Brix). The exotic varieties Deanna, Excel and Conardia did well at Bangalore (AICRPAZF, 1995). The adaptability and performance of these varieties of Fig vary from region to region. It is felt necessary to identify the suitable varieties for this region keeping the growing demand in the market.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted at Dr.YSR Horticulture University, Arid Horticulture Research Station, Konda Mallepally, Nalgonda district during the period of 2001 to 2008. The Station falls under southern zone of Telangana (Latitude 17.0586693 and Longitude 17.265585) with average rainfall of 560 mm with mean temperatures of 17ºC minimum and 40ºC maximum. The soils are calcareous shallow red chalka type. The trail was conducted in non replicated model with 5 varieties with 5 plants in each row with a spacing of 4x4 meters. Recommended package of practices were followed to grow the trees. The varieties *viz*., Hindupur, Mysarum, Poona, Royal and Barkas were planted during 1994-95. The data on fruit yield were recorded from 2001-2008 and the cumulative yield data was collected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Perusal of the data (Table.1) revealed that the cumulative fruit yield over seven years ranged from 16.6 kg to 32.1 kg/tree. The variety Poona has recorded the highest cumulative fruit yield (32.1 kg/plant) followed by Royal (24.4 kg/plant), Mysarum (23.7 kg/plant), Hindupur (23.5kg/plant) and Barkas (16.6kg/ plant). The Poona variety has exhibited superior performance followed by Royal in fruit yield.

Table. 1: Cumulative fruit Yield of Fig varieties (2001-2008)

S. No	Name of Variety	Average fruit yield (kg/plant)							Cumulative fruit yield (kg/Plant) (2001-2007)
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
1	Hindupur	1.5	4.6	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.2	4.2	23.5
2	Mysarum	2.8	5.4	2.0	2.8	3.0	3.3	4.4	23.7
3	Poona	3.0	7.2	3.9	4.8	4.1	3.9	5.2	32.1
4	Royal	2.1	4.0	2.7	3.6	3.8	3.4	4.8	24.4
5	Barkas	1.0	3.5	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.7	3.4	16.6

CONCLUSION

From this study, it can be concluded that the variety Poona may be recommended for cultivation under the calcareous soils of southern zone of Telangana.

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