

BOOK REVIEW

Subtropical Fruit Culture

By Kaushal Kumar Misra

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Sub-tropical fruits are the major chunk of fruit crops grown commercially in India. It comprises both major and underutilized fruit crops. Owing to the typical growing conditions and environmental requirements, this group of fruit crops has some special physiology expressed in growth, flowering, and fruiting. Hence, the present book is the up-to-date compilation of literature on 19 fruit crops which are grown in India particularly in the sub-tropical regions extending from Himalayan foothills to Deccan plateau and also arid sub-tropical regions. The book encompasses basic and allied aspects of different fruit crops extending to general history, biochemical composition and uses, botany, climate and soil cultivars, propagation, application of biotechnological tools, cultural practices including training and pruning, manure and fertilizers, irrigation, mulching, weed control, intercropping, use of growth

regulators and micro-nutrients, physiological disorders, insect pests and diseases, harvesting and yield, post harvest handling and storage, processing and value addition. In the entire book, the available latest research and recommendations made from different research institutions have been incorporated. The book is of immense value for the students, teachers, horticulturists, extension personnel etc. Overall it is an ideal textbook for all. The contents in each chapter is apt for students of horticulture both at graduate and post graduate levels, besides it could be used as ready reference for the teachers of universities and colleges. Every crop has been supported by relevant new research, which adds to the quality of information compiled. The text throughout has been lucid and understandable for all interested in sub-tropical fruit crops.

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Obituary

Dr Pijush Kanti Majumder, a renowned horticulturist and an eminent fruit breeder passed away on May 3rd, 2011 at New Delhi after prolonged illness. Born at Usthi in undivided Bengal on 1st February, 1927, Dr Majumder did B.Sc. (Ag.) from Bombay University in 1950; Associateship of IARI, New Delhi in 1957 and Ph.D. from Bombay University in 1969. He started his career as Research Assistant at Anand, Gujarat from 1950-51 and at Krishinagar, West Bengal from 1951 to 1957; and later became Mango Research Officer from 1958 to 1960. He joined IARI, New Delhi in 1960 as Assistant Geneticist and became Assistant Professor of Horticulture (1966-67); Extension Horticulturist (1967-68) and Horticulturist (1968-1977). He later became the Head, Division of Horticulture and Fruit Technology, IARI, New Delhi in 1980 to 1983.

Dr Majumder published about 80 research articles and one bulletin. He also guided seven Ph.D. and five M.Sc. students at IARI. He did extensive research on mango and guava particularly related to evolving improved varieties, propagation, rootstocks and mango malformation. Dr Majumder served as FAO Fruit Expert in Nigeria from 1977 to 1980 and had also visited East Malling Research Station, England on Colombo Fellowship from 1971 to 1972. His contributions to teaching and research will always be remembered by all.

His departure is a great loss to the horticulture fraternity. The Horticultural Society of India deeply mourns on the demise of Dr Majumder and pray his soul rests in peace.



Dr P.K. Majumder
(01.02.1927 to 03.05.2011)