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Influence of pruning intensities on leaf nutrient composition and carbohydrate content in mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cv. Alphonso under ultra high density planting

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A field experiment was conducted on mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cv. Alphonso under Ultra High Density Planting (UHDP) to study the changes in the nutrient composition in leaves after pruning. Leaf nutrients i.e., N, P and K analysed at different stages of plant growth varied significantly due to pruning. The highest nitrogen content was registered by T₁ at vegetative stage, T₅ (50% removal of past season's growth and tipping) at flowering stage and T₂ (Light pruning) at harvest stage. The highest phosphorus content was observed at vegetative stage by T₁, at flowering by T₂ (Light pruning) and at harvest stage by T₄ (Heavy pruning). The highest potassium content was observed at vegetative stage by T₅ at flowering by T₄ and at harvest stage by T₃ (Moderate pruning). The C:N ratio was the maximum in control plants at vegetative, flowering stages and at harvest stage, the treatment T₆ (Total removal of past season's growth) recorded the maximum C:N ratio in leaves and shoots.

Biography

Gopu Balraj is doing his Ph.D. (Fruit Science) in Horticultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India. He is presently working on crop regulation in mango under Ultra High Density Planting.

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Marketing channels, price spread and marketing efficiency in the marketing of high value cash crops in Himachal Pradesh

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The study has been conducted with a view to examine the various marketing channels, costs, margins and price spread in the marketing of vegetables in Himachal Pradesh. The cropping pattern on sampled households was vegetable-dominated with 80 to 86 percent of the total cropped area under vegetables and the cropping intensity was as high as 270 per cent. More than 90 percent of the total produce of selected vegetables was marketed surplus. Regional markets were well equipped and were working efficiently. However, market malpractices viz., overcharging for the services like loading/unloading, weighing, grading, etc., and under weighing of the produce of farmers prevailed. Fluctuating market prices further aggravated by the lack of market information were also reported to be the major problems. Of the three major channels operative in the study area, channel-III comprising of producer, commission agent, retailer and consumer, happened to be the most efficient channel. It was also observed that the retailers' margin was the highest among all the market functionaries in all the channels. The producer's share in consumer's rupee varied from 46 percent to 74 percent. The study has emphasized on the adoption of improved technology to enhance the returns from vegetable production. Strengthening of farmers' organizations and cooperative marketing institutions along with the development of infrastructure viz., small scale processing units, roads, transportation and storage facilities, has also been suggested to ensure efficient marketing. A mechanism for proper implementation of the market rules and regulations was strongly needed to be put in place. Promotion of contract farming in the vegetable producing areas was also stressed upon so as to minimize the market related problems of the farming community.

Biography

Brij Bala did her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics with Production Economics and Farm Management as sub disciplines at the age of 25 years with Gold Medal from CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur. She is working as Sr. Scientist at CSK HPKV, Hill Agricultural Research and Extension Centre, Bajaura, Kullu, HP, India. She has published more than 50 papers in reputed national and international journals and serving as an editor/referee for some journals of repute. She has also authored one book entitled "Economics of off-season vegetables".

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