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# Jackfruit production in Tripura: A land for trip of jackfruits in Bangladesh

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**ABSTRACT :** Jackfruit is a traditional fruit in Tripura. Tripura jackfruit is a popular fruit ranking first in total area and annual production in Tripura. Tripura is considered to be the home of jackfruit and it is reservoir of many year-round producing genotypes. Every year huge amount of jackfruits are legal and illegally exports in Bangladesh from Tripura. The state government has already initiated a plan for reconstructing and modernisation of the plant in Nalkata. The objectives of this paper are: (a) to study jackfruit production in Tripura, and (b) to identify the business of jackfruits in Tripura.

**KEY WORDS :** Bangladesh, Business, Jackfruit, Production, Tripura

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The jackfruit is a species of tree in the fig, mulberry and breadfruit family. The jackfruit tree is a widely cultivated and popular food item throughout the tropical regions of the world. Jackfruit is the national fruit of Bangladesh (Jackfruit, 2016). The fruit itself is a good source of vitamin C, while the seeds are rich in protein, potassium, calcium, and iron (Orwig, 2015). No one knows the jackfruit's place of origin but it is believed indigenous to the rainforests of the Western Ghats (Morton, 1987). Huge, nutritious, and plentiful in hot climates, jackfruit is a food well-suited to a warming world (Worley, 2016). Jackfruit has other names, too: Kathal in Bangladesh, Kanun in Thailand and Nangka in Malaysia (MARC Silver, 2016).

Jackfruit season is September through December and again from June to August. Peak production is during the monsoon season (All about Jackfruit, 2012). Jackfruit tree is drought resistant. It is easy to grow (Suchitra, 2015). It needs least attention but yields abundant fruits. It is indigenous to India and is widely grown in Bangladesh, Burma, Srilanka, Malaysia, Indonesia,

Philippines, Brazil and other tropical countries. It is also found in East Africa e.g. Uganda, Tanzania and Mauritius as well as throughout Brazil and Caribbean nations such as Jamaica (Lagardo and Goswami, 2015).

## RESEARCH METHODS

The paper is based on secondary information. Information's were collected from published sources, like as journals, books, news papers, government reports, magazines etc.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Wild jackfruit is found in Western Ghats of India. In India, jackfruit production is mostly in Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Orissa, Kerela and Tamil Nadu (Bakshi, 2016). Tripura is endowed with fertile soils, abundant moisture and sub-tropical climate offer immense scope for production of a wide variety of tropical and sub-tropical fruits and vegetables. Fruits like pineapple, jackfruit, orange, litchi, cashew nut, coconut, lime and lemon are produced in abundance

(Pineapple growing States, 2016).

Jackfruit is another major fruit grown in Tripura. It is available throughout the state. The jackfruit plantation covers 8,929 hectares. Its production has risen to 2,50,021 tons. The fruit and seeds are consumed by the people while the outer shell of the fruit is eaten by cattle. The leaves of the tree serve as good fodder and the tree provides good quality of timber. At present, the State Government has taken initiative to plant the trees in waste lands which may prove to be a good source of income for the farmers with minimum labour (Bhattacharje, 2015).

The agro-climatic conditions are favourable for growing various fruit and horticultural crops (Food processing, 2015). Tripura jackfruit is a popular fruit ranking first in total area and annual production in Tripura (Table 1). Tripura is considered to be the home of jackfruit and it is reservoir of many year-round producing genotypes. Diverse forms of jack have been growing in hilly slopes and plains. At present most of the jackfruits are grown waste lands, fallow land including in home gardens by farmers (Das, 2013).

Jackfruit is one of the commercial fruit crops in Tripura and has high local demand. The farming community of the state earns a lot of money from it, as its cultivation is easy, hardy in nature, producing fruits even under adverse soil and climatic conditions. The succulent and aromatic fruit is eaten fresh. People of

Tripura consume immature jackfruit as a vegetable and ripe fruit is consumed fresh. There is a high potential for increasing the area, production and processing (Chandra and Prakesh, 2011).

A wide diversity of jackfruit has been observed throughout Bangladesh, but little attention has been paid to its documentation and conservation. Every year huge amount of jackfruits are legal and illegally exports in Bangladesh from Tripura (Sidhu, 2012). The state government has already initiated a plan for reconstructing and modernization of the plant in Nalkata, which is under consideration for the approval of Ministry of Development of North East Region (India Today, 2008).

There is huge potential RoFR land available for cultivation of fruit/ plantation crops like pineapple, jackfruit, orange, mosambi, mango, arecanut etc., commercially which may cater the need of other North Eastern States and neighboring country Bangladesh. The recent development in Indo-Bangla relationship has also opened new avenues of export possibilities of horticultural sector in near future (Horticulture, 2016). The North East Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC), the central agricultural marketing agency and the Tripura Small Industries Corporation have come forward with mini-fruit processing units (The Hindu, January 4, 2011). There is need for supporting the youth of Tripura in nurturing their entrepreneurship skills (Business Standard, December 20, 2015).

Table 1: Area, production and productivity of major fruits in Tripura			
Crops	Area (000' hec)	Production (Lakh MT)	Productivity ( MT /hec)
Mango	11.18	0.625	5.6
Pineapple	11.94	1.708	14.3
Orange	06.70	0.365	5.45
Jackfruit	10.03	3.013	30.02
Banana	13.99	1.413	10.10
Litchi	03.92	0.205	5.25
Lime/Lemon	05.54	0.278	5.02
Papaya	03.72	0.372	10.00
Sapota	00.19	0.015	8.10
Mosambi	01.20	0.018	1.5
Guava	01.00	0.053	5.30
Others	10.72	0.127	7.60
Total	71.18	8.197	11.52

Source: Department of Horticulture, Govt. of India

**Conclusion :**

Jackfruit is one of the commercial fruit crops in Tripura and has high local demand. Tripura is considered to be the home of jackfruit and it is reservoir of many year-round producing genotypes. People of Tripura consume immature jackfruit as a vegetable and ripe fruit is consumed fresh. Jackfruits are soft and delicate, are more prone to damage and spoilage during handling and storage. Due to their high perishability, the postharvest management required is also high (Pandian and Soundararajan, 2014). Every year huge amount of jackfruits are legal and illegally exports in Bangladesh from Tripura.

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