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Mita Chakraborty  
M. Chakraborty

## PREFACE :

India had to pay heavy duty for her Independence and that is the partition of Bengal and Punjab. West Bengal, being outline State, faced awful situation of migration which reflected in people's daily life and need for food and shelter. The State started progressive expansion in the field of agriculture which include various food crops, cash crops, fruits and vegetables with the help of advanced food technology. According to Indian Council of Medical Research, the amount of fruits and vegetables intake per head per day in India is half of the stipulated amount. Present thesis, namely, 'Horticulture in West Bengal - a geographical analysis, has been formulated in the light of a review of horticulture in West Bengal since independence, its achievement, problems and prospects. India, being one of the oldest civilization possess a glorious history of horticulture. References have been found for different historic periods of Vedic, Hindu, Buddhist, Islamic and British rule. Calcutta, being the Capital of British India had the honour of having the Royal - Agri-Horticultural Society founded by Dr. William Carrey. Plantation technology along with seeds and planting materials from all the corners of the globe was distributed through this centre to all over India. Hence, the horticultural basement was already strong for West Bengal.

The idea of commercialization of horticultural products started for the last decades only. With a view to achieve the requirements of 68 million people of West Bengal this analytical study has been made. Nine chapters are made altogether which include the possibilities of horticultural crops at different agro-climatic zones of West Bengal and their cultural practices; study of major commercial fruits

with their respective infrastructure, cultivation and distribution of vegetables, floriculture, economics related to horticulture, major problems, planning and development from macro to micro level and finally suggestions for one horticultural atlas has been added. Both qualitative and quantitative data have been taken for this analytical study. Primary sources are local people, leaders, officials and non-officials of Government, semi-government and different private agencies while secondary informations are taken from census hand books, lead bank survey reports, institutional records, reference books, periodicals and journals, newspaper etc. The planners and policy makers of horticultural development will get immense help from the thesis.

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