



## POMEGRANATE A BOON TO DESERT FARMERS

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**Abstract:** Desert is not known for water but for mirages, which stimulates thirst and give hope, which leads a man nowhere. It's here in desert, that one known about the utility of water. People may leave their down open but always keep water under lock & key. First time the farmer of Balotra and Sindhari block of the desert district have harvested a good 50 quintals of fruits on an average one hectare land. The land under pomegranate cultivation is expected to extend 5000 hectare. In this year total 3000 ha pomegranate area produce average yield of 50 quintal.

**Key words:** Pomegranate, Arid, Fruits Desert, etc.

### Introduction and Challenge

The Arid zone has a high temperature, low humidity, low rainfall and erratic and poor textured soils. The agriculture production system in the western part of Rajasthan is mostly rainfed, mono-cropped and of subsistence type because of climatic constraints. Water scarcity is a serious problem of this region. The rains are very erratic, uncertain and unevenly distributed. There is a possibility of goods rainfall after 3-4 years interval. A 100 year rainfall data shows that there was 61 times famine in last 100 year out of which were 24 Severe famine and were medium famine. But even under these conditions, pomegranate is best suited; it can survive even with little water,”

### Initiative

The Agro climate of an arid ecosystem makes fruit culture a difficult enterprise, but even under such environment pomegranate found to be a successful fruit crop. It has the capacity to withstand heat, drought and salinity, besides high profitability has made its cultivation increasingly attractive.



In 2009-10 one group of farmer visited Inter-State tour at Gujarat & Maharashtra seen pomegranate then we decided to grow pomegranate in his field. KVK-Barmer I Dr. Pradeep Pagaria organized training programmes & motivated the farmers to take up the challenge. In first year 20 farmers ready to grow pomegranate variety Bhagva/Sinduri under 50 hectare land with drip irrigation with the technical input and constant supervision of KVK scientists. First time the farmer of Balotra and Sindhari block of the desert district have harvested a good 50 quintals of fruits on an average one hectare land.

**Key result/insight/interesting fact**



The results of the very first attempt were so encouraging that farmers just could not stop him from dancing. Lush green fields of their farming not only inspired and motivated the farmers of own village but the farmers of nearby village & other district are also ready to adopt and accept the pomegranate cultivation. Pomegranate grown is making a cool profit of Rs. 150000 – 200000 from each hectare.

**Impact**

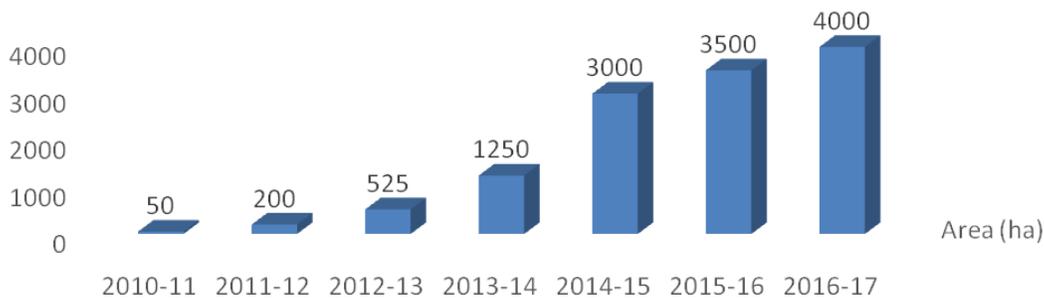


This initiative has got huge potentiality of up scaling. These initiatives developed a self depended linkage with market and farmers group KVK is going to involve extending technical support to growers and monitoring every stage. These initiatives have horizontal and vertical expansion in terms of scientific adoption of pomegranate cultivation and multiply in nearby villages, district and state.



The land under pomegranate cultivation is expected to extend 5000 hectare. In this year total 3000 ha pomegranate area produce average yield of 50 quintal. Market prices at village level average is 50/- per kg. Total produce 30,000 quintals & average rate is 50/- total revenue generated 75 Crore rupees. At present continuous increasing area day by day.

Area increasing under Pomegranate Area (ha)



Source: A. D., Horticulture-Barmer

### Supporting Quotes and Images

Pomegranate farmers said of Cultivation of pomegranate have increased resilience to climatic vagaries and also have regular source of income from my farm". Besides, the monetary benefits, his family

member are now getting year round employment. Inspired by initial profits, farmers now planning to bring more area under cultivation of pomegranate that can provide better economic returns.

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