

PREFACE

Horticultural crops have tremendous economic potential, and in post-WTO scenario, their significance has increased further. These are sources of livelihood for millions and also source of earning foreign exchange. Among them mango and date palm hold prominent position and current international trade in these fruit has reached over 850 million US\$, and the demand is ever increasing in all parts of the world. However, we have to meet the international quality standards and demand; which will enable us to enter into new markets on globe. For this purpose, not only we have to improve our yield per hectare, reduce the heavy post harvest losses and improve quality, especially packing and presentation. Keeping in view these and similar other problems of mango and date palm, need was felt to collect latest scientific information, from local as well international sources to address the challenges and issues. After consultation with eminent horticulturists and local industry, the Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, took the initiative to hold a conference on these two important fruits.

Since knowledge is rapidly improving about each subject across the world, including mango and dates, it was desired that the same may be updated too. Therefore, the effort was made to invite speakers from different parts of the world. There was a good number of local and international participation and a wide spectrum information was gathered which is being compiled in this manuscript. The presentations in the conference continued for two days and the participants spent third day in the field, visiting a number of orchards and research station. The presentations were made in six sessions, three sessions for each crop. Each session was chaired by renowned scientists as mentioned in the proceedings.

I am thankful to our honorable Chief Guest, Mr. Sikandar Hayat Bosan, Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock and Vice Chancellor, Dr. Bashir Ahmad (*Ezaz-e-Fazeelat*), for their gracious consent and support to this conference. I would also like to thank Higher Education Commission, Islamabad, Engro Chemicals Pak. Ltd., The Horticultural Foundation of Pakistan, Pakistan Horticulture Development & Export Board, Shakarganj Mills Ltd. and Pakistan Society of Horticultural Sciences, who made contributions towards the success of this conference. I am also thankful to Dr. Muhammad Aslam Pervez, Director, Institute of Horticultural Sciences, Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq (T.I), Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, and Muhammad Hussain Chaudhary, Registrar, University of Agriculture, for their unconditional support and guidance. The task could have not been completed, if my team comprising of a number of committees would have not done at their best and extended their full cooperation.

I express my deep gratitude to the participants of the conference especially the delegates from Australia, Iran, UAE, Kuwait and India. I once again express my sincere thanks to the learned participants who responded to our invitation to come and join in this intellectual exercise. I hope their experience will be rewarding and memorable. The readers are requested to send suggestions to the editors for future improvements.

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Organizing Secretary