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# High Value Fruit Crops

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*Edited by*

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# Preface

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In the evolving landscape of horticultural science, high value fruit crops have emerged as key drivers of agricultural diversification, nutritional security, and rural income generation. With increasing consumer awareness of functional foods and global trade potential, crops like avocado, blueberry, dragon fruit, kiwi, fig, and others have moved from obscurity to the forefront of modern fruit farming. Yet, despite their growing demand, systematic and consolidated scientific information on these crops remains fragmented or limited—especially in tropical and subtropical contexts.

This edited volume, *High Value Fruit Crops*, has been conceptualized to address that knowledge gap. The book presents a comprehensive and structured treatment of fifteen economically promising fruit crops: Avocado, Blueberries, Cape Gooseberry, Date Palm, Dragon Fruit, Durian, Fig, Jamun, Kiwi, Longan, Mangosteen, Olive, Persimmon, Rambutan, and Strawberry. Each chapter has been contributed by subject matter experts and follows a unified format encompassing aspects of taxonomy, phenology, origin and distribution, varietal wealth, propagation, nutrient and water management, canopy architecture, plant protection, harvesting, post-harvest handling, and value addition.

## **Special emphasis has been given to:**

1. Nutritional composition and medicinal properties (in chart format),
2. Eco-physiological requirements for optimal crop performance,
3. Modern crop improvement techniques, including molecular and biotechnological interventions,
4. Constraints and future thrust areas for each crop, helping guide future research and policy directions.

The content is evidence-based, data-rich, and practically relevant—designed to benefit a wide audience including students, researchers, extension professionals, agri-startups, and commercial growers. The book also aligns with national and global priorities for sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, and crop diversification, making it a timely resource for academic, research, and commercial institutions alike.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the contributing authors for their scholarly work and timely submissions, and to the publisher for supporting this initiative. It is our hope that this book will serve as a valuable reference and training manual in the field of fruit science and catalyze the adoption of high value crops across varied agro-climatic zones.

17<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

***Editors***

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