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# **OUR DESERT**

India has 31.7 m ha hot arid area, of which 62% is in Rajasthan. This region with environmental adversities of low precipitation, erratic in distribution and extent, extremes of temperature in both summer and winter, high wind velocity and poor soil physical and fertility conditions has perennially low productivity. But this low yielding area has high human and animal population.

## **PRODUCTS FOR LIVELIHOOD**

Traditional wisdom has therefore, evolved for ages for livelihood and judicious use of natural resources. Desertic trees, shrubs and grasses yield various products like gum, gel, seeds and fruits that in the raw form fetch low income. Likewise animal products such as milk are less remunerative. The active ingredients / constituents found as products and secondary metabolites from desert flora, fauna and micro flora evolved over centuries are unique and specific to this geographic region. To make these raw materials acceptable to National and International consumers, their value addition has been gaining momentum at CAZRI for last few decades.

Accordingly, a large number of products from plants, animals and locally available feeds as well as IPM and low cost user friendly tools have been developed. Some of the products are in the process of patenting.

# VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS

#### Products from Date palm (Khajoor)

Date Jelly : Dates of doka stage are used. Easy preparation, attractive purple colour, pleasant smell. Low sugar base, no chemicals/additive preservatives. BC ratio 1.29.



Date Chutney : Dates of pind stage are used. Pleasant aroma, long preservation quality. BC ratio 1.5.

Date Pickle: Green or pind stage dates are used. Easy to prepare, long shelf life. BC ratio 1.29.

Date Toffee : Dates of doka stage are used. Low sugar base, no chemical, chocolate colour, granular texture with good elasticity; liked by children. BC ratio 1.43.







### Products from Colocynth (Tumba)

Citrullus colocynthis locally known as Tumba is a natural perennial creeper of the desert. It has cucurbitacin beside 26.6% oil and 13.5% protein in seeds. Following value added products have been developed from Tumba.

> Preserve: It is a source of desserts. Its production cost is Rs. 15 per kg and is sold at Rs. 30 per kg.





Pickle: Acts as laxative. supplies proteins, protective minerals and vitamins. Cost of product is Rs. 45 per kg. Return from product is Rs. 60 perkg.



Candy: Used in confectionary and desserts. Empty stomach intake lowers acidity and constipation. Candy making costs Rs. 15 per kg which can be sold at Rs. 30 per kg.





Churan: Appetizer, reduces acidity and constipation."



Roasted Seeds: Mouth freshener, reduces apocrine foul smell originating from armpits. Cost of product is Rs. 9 per kg. Return from product is Rs. 20 per kg.

Seed Cake: Good source of feed for milch animals. Also, a good source of NPK and Zn for crop plants.



#### Products from Salvadora oleoides (Meetha laal / Peelu)

Peelu Jam: Prepared from fresh fruit pulp, this is consumed as table dish. BC ratio 2.0.



Peelu Squash: Made from fruit pulp, this soothing drink minimizes the risk of heat stroke during summer. BC ratio 2.0.





Dehydrated Peelu: Prepared by keeping in sulphur box for half an hour and transferring to a dryer at 50°C for 48 hrs to reduce its moisture level to15%. BC ratio 1.54.

Peelu Fat: The seeds, available as by-product in the process of making Peelu Squash and Peelu Jam, can be profitably used for extraction of inedible fat (40-50%) that can be used in soap industry, candle making and also as a base in ointments. BC. ratio 1.54.

#### Products from Prosopis juliflora (Vilayati Babool)

Biscuits: Prosopis juliflora pods are powdered and mixed with upto 25% wheat flour to make dough and baked to have crisp and tasty biscuits of pleasant flavour.



#### Products from Haloxylon recurvum (Khara-Lana)

Choa: It is also a mixed salt of sodium and potassium bicarbonate but of more refined form that fetches good market price up to Rs. 30 per kg. Both the products are used in papad industry. In Bikaner alone annual demand is 40 to 50 t. In saline wastelands farmer can get around Rs. 8000 to 10,000 per ha by growing Khara-lana with BC ratio of 1.4.



Saii: A mixed salt of sodium and potassium bicarbonate. In its crude form fetches Rs. 7 to 8 per kg.

#### Products from Aloe vera (Gwar patha)

Aloe Pickle: Natural attributes are retained, *Aloe vera* polysaccharides intact. Production cost is Rs. 10 per 100 g. BC ratio 1.5-2.5.

Aloe Gel: This is a moisturizer, suitable for summer, regular use may improve skin and hair condition. Production cost is Rs. 20 per 100 g. BC ratio 2.5-3.0.



Aloe Candy: Edible product, natural attributes are retained, *Aloe vera* polysaccharides (AVPS) are present in concentrated form. Production cost is Rs. 50 per 100 g. BC ratio 2.5-3.0.

Aloe Jelly: Edible product, natural attributes are retained, AVPS is intact. Production cost is Rs. 20 per 100 g.

Aloe Cold Cream: Highly effective for cracked feet, dry/dehydrated skin; moisturizes and softens the skin. Production cost is Rs. 50 per100 g. BC ratio 1.7.

#### **Products from Horticultural Plants**





**Dehydrated Products:** Dehydration of fruits under controlled condition and after suitable pre-treatment has given better quality dehydrated products from *Ber*, *Anar*, *Aonla*, *Gonda and Kachri* fruits. BC ratio 2.0. Aloe Moisturizer: Suitable for normal and oily skins, removes black spots from skin formed due to cold. Production cost is Rs. 30 per 100 g. BC ratio 1.8-2.5.

**Squash:** Blended fruit juice squash prepared from *Ber*, *Anar*, *Aonla*, and *Karonda* juice. Better quality due to natural colour and consumer acceptability as compared to squash prepared from single fruit juice. BC ratio 2.2.



Aonla Preserve and Candy: Sugar impregnated Aonla fruits in syrup (preserve) or without sugar syrup (candy) can be stored at ambient conditions. BC ratio 1.96.

#### Products from Goat Milk

Goat milk has comparatively poor market owing to the goaty odour associated with it. Following products have been developed:

**Paneer:** Soft, compact and free from goat odour. Recovery 10-12%. BC ratio 1.69. **Kulfee:** Nutritionally rich product, no goaty odour. BC ratio 1.7. **Whey Drink:** Health drink, nutritionally superior for minerals, essential vitamins and high protein. It is a bonus byproduct of *Paneer*.

# **OTHER PRODUCTS**

# Products for

Products for Animal Feed

**Complete Feed Blocks:** Proportioned mixture of locally available fodder and concentrates to meet total nutritional needs of animals. Economical feed that is useful in drought affected areas. Cost of production is Rs. 4.50 per kg, which is being sold at Rs. 8 per kg.

Multi-nutrient Feed Block (MNB): Concentrated source of energy, protein and minerals fulfilling area specific nutrient needs of animals. Alleviates nutrient deficiencies and optimizes production.

### **Bioformulations**



**Biophos:** Prepared from the cultures of *Chaetomium globosum*. Mobilizes plant unavailable inorganic and organic phosphorus from soils. The phosphorus from soils. The phosphorus response on crops after seed inoculation is equivalent to fertilizer application of 45-60 kg single super phosphate per hectare. BC ratio 15.







**Kisan Sakha 1:** Talc based entomo-pathogenic formulation of *Metarrhizium* anisopliae adapted to warm ambience. Effective against soil borne pests like termites, white grubs and *Khejri* root grub.

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Maru Sena 1: Bioformulated from native strain of *Trichoderma harzianum*, it effectively controls important soil-borne plant pathogens like *Macrophomina phaseolina* and *Fusarium* causing dry root rot in legumes and wilt on cumin and other crops, respectively. BC ratio 24 for soil application. It can be used as seed treatment (4 g per kg seed) or as soil application (1 kg mixed in 50 kg FYM).

Maru Sena 2: Bioformulated product of *Aspergillus versicolor*. This is a heat tolerant strain (up to 65°C) under low soil moisture conditions, effective against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cumini* causing wilt of cumin. Compatible with *Bacillus firmus* (Maru Sena 3). It can be used as seed treatment (4 g per kg seed) or as soil application (1 kg mixed in 50 kg *neem* compost or FYM). BC ratio 24 for soil application.

**Maru Sena 3:** Bacillus firmus, isolated from cruciferous residue amended soil is specifically effective against *Macrophomina phaseolina* causing dry root rot in legumes and oil seed crops. It also improves nodulation and plant growth of legumes. Its bioformulated product (200g) prepared in lignite as a carrier can be used to treat seeds for one acre sowing. BC ratio 28 for seed treatment.



**Food crops:** High yielding varieties of pearl millet (CZP 9802, CZ-IC 923), clusterbean (Maru guar), moth bean (Maru moth, CAZRI Moth-1, CAZRI Moth-2, CAZRI Moth-3) and horse gram (Maru Kulthi-1) have been developed, which can give higher yields in arid and semi-arid regions. The dual purpose pearl millet variety CZP 9802 is gown on over 25,000 ha area and getting popular in spite of competition from hybrids.

Horticultural Crops: A number of varieties have been identified that can be successfully raised even on marginal lands with certain conservation measures. These include Gola, Seb and Mundia of *Ber*, Jalore seedless of *Anar*, Dhara Road and Faizabadi local of *Bael*, Kanchan and Krishna of *Aonla*.



Grasses



Marwar Dhaman of Cenchrus setigerus: It is semi-erect type. Plants are 50 - 60 cm tall, leaves medium-narrow, long, yellowish green and semi-erect, nodal pigmentation is brown, flowers (50%) in 45-55 days and slow senescence. Green fodder yield is 5.85 t per ha. Very much relished by small ruminants.

Marwar Anjan of Cenchrus ciliaris: It is erect, 60-90 cm tall with long, broad, droopy and green leaves, actively growing and flowers (50%) in 50-60 days. It yields 2.85 t dry matter and 8.81 t green fodder per ha.

# **OTHER TECHNOLOGIES**

**Enhancement of Gum Production from** *Acacia senegal (Kumat)*: A guminducing solution (ethephon) is injected into the main stem of the tree through a small hole. Requires no further injury or cut to the plants and yields 500g gum per tree. Cost of treatment is Rs. 10 per tree. BC ratio 5.





**Propogation of** *Commiphora wightii* (*Guggul*) : Major bottleneck in mass propagation of *guggul* is difficulty in rooting of cuttings (10-15%). A method of seasoning the cuttings before applying rooting hormone (IBA) has given almost cent per cent success in rooting, besides drastic reduction in time of sprouting.

**Rodent Control :** Rodenticidal baiting technology simplified. Improved the line traps as per size of rodent species. The IPM system for rodent control developed. BC ratio 10.8 in spice crops.



# MACHINES / TOOLS

**Solar Tracker:** An automatic light sensing solar tracking device that enhances harnessing of solar energy by 25%. Besides, it tracks the solar energy gadget continuously throughout the day and returns automatically the next morning. The unit costs Rs. 5000.



Aloe vera Gel (Fillet) Extractor: A mechanical unit for extracting Aloe vera gel (fillet) developed, which crushes 60 - 80 kg fresh leaves per hr. The unit costs Rs. 4000.





Aonla Pricker: An aonla pricker has been designed and developed, which can prick about 7-8 kg aonla per hr against 1.5 kg per hr with a fork.



Animal Feed Block Making Machine: About 40 feed blocks per hr can be prepared with this unit. Different feed ingredients are metered individually in the pre-decided proportion and mixed to make the feed block.

# PLANTS MENTIONED IN BULLETIN

Photos of plants at following serials appear on Back Cover

S.No.	Hindi Name	Scientific Name	English Name
1.	Aonla / Amla	Emblica officinalis	Indian gooseberry
2.	Beal	Aegle marmelos	Bael
3.	Ber	Ziziphus mauritiana	Jujube
4.	Gwar patha / Ghikanwar	Aloe vera	Barbados aloe
5.	Gonda	Cordia gharaf	
6.	Guar .	Cymopsis tetragonoloba	Cluster bean
7.	Kachri	Cucumis callosus	
8.	Kair / Karer	Capparis decidua	Caper berry
9.	Karonda	Carissa carandas	Karanda
10.	Khajoor	Phoenix dactylifera	Date palm
11.	Khara lana	Haloxylon recurvum	-
12.	Khejri (Pods known as Sangri)	Prosopis cineraria	Indian mesquite
13.	Mung	Vigna radiata	Mung bean, Greengra
14.	Neem	Azadirachta indica	Margosa tree
15.	Vilayati babool	Prosopis juliflora	Mesquite

#### Photos of following plants appear in the text

S.No.	Hindí Name	Scientific Name	English Name		
1.	Anar	Punica granatum	Pomegranate		
2.	Bajra	Pennisetum glaucum	Pearl millet		
3.	Kulthi	Macrotyloma uniflorum	Horse gram		
4.	Kumat / Kumta	Acacia senegal	Gum arabic		
5.	Moda Dhaaman	Cenchrus setigerus			
6.	Moth	Vigna aconitifolia	Moth bean		
7.	Rundar Dhaaman	Cenchrus ciliaris			
8.	Tumba	Citrullus colocynthis	Colocynth		
Photos of following plants appear on the Inner First Cover					
1.	Guggul	Commiphora wightii	Indian bdellium		
2.	Meetha Jaal (Fruits known as Peelu)	Salvadora oleoides			





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