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Conserving Honey Bees with Forage Plant Mexican Creeper - *Antigonon leptopus*

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Short Communications

In this issue…

Hearty New Year Greetings from our Editorial Team to all the readers of JHS!

As the world is slowly coming out of glitches of pandemic, there is no other better way than celebrating 2021 as Year of Fruits and Vegetables as announced by United Nations Assembly to welcome the new year and recognize the importance of nutrition for better health. Fruits and Vegetables ensure the Nutritional Security to humankind. They play key role in addressing the malnutrition that is a major concern. We are proud that JHS creatins awareness of importance of fruits and vegetables by publishing the recent developments in research with respect to these crops.

Diversity of fruit crops and genetic resources available with respect to fruit crops are important for developing better fruit crop varieties. ***Sankaran and Dinesh*** *have reviewed the "Biodiveristy of Fruit Crops in India" in a very comprehensive way. There is diversity in Jasmine species.* ***Ganga et al.*** *carried out the palynological investigations and recorded the variability in pollen morphology in different species of Jasmine by documentating images using scanning electron microscope. Biodiversity can be linked to livelihood also. One such success story with tamarind selection 'Lakhamna' is being reported by* ***Kanupriya et al.*** *This tamarind selection has been identified from participatory breeding programme. It has a better pod characters and more preferred by consumers.*

Protected cultivation has seen greater momentum in last two decades. ***Adeniji et al.*** *identified the best varieties of tomato for polyhouse cultivation in Nigeria.* ***Rao et al.*** *selected two gladiolus hybrid selections IIHRG-7 and IIHRG-11 with red purple and red coloured flowers respectively. These hybrids have resistance to Fusarium wilt and suitable for cut flower and flower arrangement purposes.* ***Sankaran et al.*** *analysed the variance for 6 quantitative and 30 qualitative traits in mango in 400 genotypes and identified 18 clusters. Selected genotypes from specific clusters can be used in hybridization programme.*

The production aspects are important in perennial crops. It is crop management that needs to be prioritized for enhanced yield. ***Adiga et al.*** *have reviewed the research work carried in "Canopy Management in Cashew", providing the wholistic view of cultural operations to have a better crop. Use of soilless medium in nursery industry is gaining importance. Best suited potting mixture for mango stone graft of cv. Alphonso has been identified by* ***Lad et al.*** *They found that cocopeat + leaf manure + compost (1:1:2) as pot mixture provided better plant growth.*

Growing Chrysanthemum in pots is practiced in home and terrace gardens. The cultivar Kikiobiory is well suited for this purpose. ***Thakur*** *has studied the nitrogen requirement for this cultivar and has come out with the recommendation of 300 mg of N per pot applied*

twice in September and October in Punjab for best results. In another study, ***Singh and Bala*** *confirmed that use of benzyl adenine at 200 ppm helped in extended vase life of Chrysanthemum morifolium flowers.* ***Nair et al.*** *recorded that foliar spray of 30:20:20 NPK at weekly interval recorded more number of flowers of Dendrobium cv. Singapore White with significantly longer spikes.*

Crop production is directly influenced by pollinators. Decline in honey bee population is a serious concern and to conserve the pollinators community approach through ecosystem services is required. ***Rami Reddy*** *reports the benefits of having ornamental plant Mexican Creeper (Antigonon leptopus) as forage plant. This creeper attracted all the four species of honey bees studied. This creeper can be used as bioindicator of honey bee population.*

Aravindaraj et al. *have reported the honey dew secretion by Thrips palmi and analysed the composition of it. They had identified different sugars present in the honey dew secretion of Thrips. Thrips not only cause direct damage but act as vectors of many plant viruses. Management of diseases in perennial crops is a challenge. Phytophthora incited root infection in citrus needs concerted efforts.* ***Ingle et al.*** *have demonstrated that use of potassium salt of phosphonic acid could help in management of Phytophthora root rot in Nagpur Mandarin.*

Mushrooms can fill the gaps in nutritional security as they are rich in nutritive value. Iron deficiency is important issue to be addressed. Iron fortified oyster mushroom products have been developed by ***Pandey et al.*** *The bioavailability of iron from Arka Mushroom Fe-Fortified Rasam Powder has been confirmed. In another study, the amino acid profile of 18 isolates of oyster mushroom species belonging to 4 species have been documented by* ***Azeez et al.*** *Quantification of essential and non-essential amino acids has been reported. Nutritionally superior isolates can be selected from these isolates.*

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S. Sriram
Editor in Chief

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Panse, V. G. and Sukhatme, P. V. 1978. Statistical methods for Agricultural workers. ICAR, New Delhi, p 108.

Srinivas, K. 1987. Response of watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus* Thunb. Musf) to drip and furrow irrigation under different nitrogen and plant population levels. Ph.D thesis, UAS, Bangalore

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