

IMPROVING AGRICULTURE IN SINDH

(Collection of Improved Fruit Germplasm in Sindh)

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We plan to carry out the survey of germplasm of fruits raised from seeds in Sindh. Preliminary investigations show that the germplasm is enormous. The following are a few examples:

- In case of dates, some varieties are resistant to rain, while the other tolerant to drought and still others are resistant to saline soil and water. These have been identified in a few cases. There probably are more than 100 such cultivars in Sukkur and Khairpur districts alone.
- The same is the case with mango of which early, mid season and late cultivars having high pulp to seed ratio and good quality, are available at private farms but neither they are known nor have they been multiplied.
- In case of zizyphus mauritiana the germplasm extends to many hundreds. There are many cultivars which are salinity tolerant, others are resistant to water logging and some resistant to various diseases. Some of them even have high pulp to seed ratio than the presently known commercial cultivars. They were raised from seeds of improved cultivars and can be surveyed.
- Guava is invariably raised from seed and hundreds of varieties exist.
- The same applies to minor fruits of Sindh.

Proposal to collect germplams.

We have the expertise to collect and maintain germplasm. In this case some cooperation of the farmers is needed for quick results in shortest possible time.