

SIMARUBA GALAUCA FRUITS IN SINDH

By
M.H. Panhwar

This nut tree yielding about 40% edible oil was planted at Panhwar fruit farms Khesano Mori near Tando Jam in 1990 from seed brought from Hawaii (USA). It grows wild in tropical forests of the Central America in Honduras, Guatemala, Panama etc. It is expected to fruit after a decade as in natural conditions of mother countries but flowered and fruited earlier in year 8 with us. In wild it yields 500 kgs of edible oil each year per acre. Oil cake is toxic, unless processed and processing can remove toxins making it good feed for animals. Without processing it is a rich fertiliser like other oil cakes.

Since its oil can be used directly for cooking without further processing, it is of immense importance to rural economy. At age of 8 years tree is about 12 feet tall and can easily survive on field embankments without any care. It does not seem to have disease or pest problems, except fungal attacks on nut, if harvest is delayed and nuts are exposed directly to rains, but since rains in Sindh come in July and fruit is harvested in June, there is not going to be any problem at least in 90% of the years. It can help in meeting oil deficit if planted on waste land and along field embankments or watercourse embankments.

Small quantity of seed will be distributed in 1999.