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Farmers' Corner- A Knowledge Hub

Andaman Kokum (*Garciniadhanikhariensis*): an endemic fruit with commercial potential

Andaman Kokum is an endemic fruit species reported to occur in South Andaman Island. The plant bears attractive crimson red to purple fruits resembling kokum (*Garcinia indica*), a popular species in Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka. Fruiting in Andaman Kokum occurs during dry period, mainly in February- March. Very limited natural population of Andaman Kokum are available and



a few local residents are aware of its edible fruits. Interestingly, peel is discarded by the island consumers and only sour-sweet pulp is eaten. Recent studies at ICAR-CIARI have suggested that Andaman Kokum could be grown, processed and popularized in line with Kokum in the West coast of India. Peel is highly suitable for processing into various value-added products such as syrup, dehydrated rind, sweetened rind etc. Studies also suggested that fruits are rich in anthocyanins, which are natural antioxidants. Presence of pharmaceutically valued hydroxycitric acid in the peel adds to the value of it. Andaman Kokum is suitable for both backyard as well as commercial scale cultivation and processing units based on it could be promoted through self-help groups, once the sufficient produce is available. Considering the dark red peel extract, it could also be promoted as a natural colourant in beverages and processed fruit products. Planting material of Andaman Kokum is being regularly multiplied at Horticultural Plants Propagation Unit of ICAR-CIARI for sale to the island farmers.

Benefit: Systematic cultivation and post harvest management of this endemic fruit would support development of small scale/cottage industries apart from offering novel products to the consumers.

Interested persons may contact

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