

SSM COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

KASHMIRI APPLE

Kashmir proudly known as the paradise of earth is also home to temperate fruits like apple for which the state is very famous across the globe. The main factor which influences temperate fruit bearing trees is soil, climate and environment which are highly favorable and unparalleled in the province of Kashmir. Apple (*Malus pumila*) is commercially the most important temperate fruit and is fourth among the most widely produced fruits in the world after banana, orange and grape. Man has very little control over nature especially factors like the climatic conditions which influences the geographic distribution of various kinds and varieties of temperate fruits. Although apple can be grown in all temperate regions including both the northern and the southern hemisphere it is not possible in the tropical climate of South Asia. The apple is a delicious and crunchy fruit with thin skin (pericarp), thick inner flesh (exocarp) and a core that contains seeds. It comes in green, yellow, red, russet, and dark red colors. It is grown worldwide, particularly in temperate regions. The apple is perhaps the most recognized fruit that finds its place and mention in many religious texts, from Greek, Roman and Norse mythologies and Abrahamic scripture to forms of popular literary culture such as folktales, poetry, proverbs, phrases and symbols. Kashmiri apples have a unique look, taste, flavor, size and color. The apple is one of the most important fruit crops, cultivated almost in every part of the valley, and as such a source for the economy and the local fruit industry. However, the major producers of apples are districts like Shopian, Baramullah, Kulgam, Pulwama, Budgam, Anantnag, Srinagar, Kupwara and Doda.

Apples are consumed across the world as the fourth most widely purchased fruits after bananas, oranges and grapes. The entire fruit, except the core that may contain toxic seeds, are consumed raw, as parts of salads, as slices, baked in pies and cakes, pressed to produce juice, cooked into sauces, as jams, made into apple butter. Jewish people dip apple slices in honey and eat them during Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Interestingly enough, in our valley thin apple slices (*Tsunth Hach*) are dried and consumed widely in the winter and early spring.

Kashmir valley leads in the supply of apples within the Asian subcontinent, with an annual export of 70% of the total production. Kashmiri apples are supplied to most of the states of India and other foreign countries.

Sopore mandi, Asia's second largest fruit market, acts as a hub where hundreds of wholesalers gather and negotiate prices with the growers since most of the valley's produce is sold to these wholesalers. Some growers also sell their produce to the local retailers. Others manage to send their produce outside of the valley.

