

Thorny brinjal blooming in Thar desert

Brinjal is one of the most important fruit vegetables. As it originated in India, wide range of variability is found in fruit size, colour and shape. The optimum temperature for normal growth and development of plant and fruits is 21-30°C or below, but high temperature range in hot arid agro-climate makes its cultivation difficult as it affects fruit setting. To mitigate this problem, a line of brinjal, viz. AHTB having thorns on its leaves and fruit calyx was identified which has the potential to set fruits at high temperature during summer and give high yield under hot arid conditions. Besides, having high yield potential under high temperature conditions, it is also fairly tolerant to major pest and diseases.

BRINJAL or eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) is one of the most popular solanaceous vegetable crops and widely grown in India and other parts of the world. The cultivated brinjal is presumed to be of Indian origin having wide range of diversity with China as secondary centre of origin. The name of brinjal is popular in Indian subcontinent and is derived from Arabic and Sanskrit where as the name eggplant has been derived from the shape of the fruit of some varieties, which are white and

resemble in shape to chicken eggs.

CULTIVATION

Thorny Brinjal, AHTB

Thorny brinjal, AHTB, has been identified for high temperature conditions under hot arid zone. It is very popular among farmers and consumers of the region. It can tolerate high temperature conditions and set fruits. Besides, having ability to set fruits, it is fairly

