

Maru Samridhi: New lasora variety

The lasora variety, Maru Samridhi has been released by Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur recently. It is an improved high yielding variety with an averages fruit yield of 85 kg fruits/plant. Mean plant height and canopy diameter is 4.5 m and 7 m respectively. It is regular fruit bearer, and starts fruiting in third year of planting. Its flowering occurs during Feb-March and fruits mature during April-May. Average fruit weight is 10.5 g, edible part 84.61%, crude protein 11.06% (dry weight basis), crude fibre 13.4% (dry weight basis) and dry matter 15.37%.

LASORA or *gonda* (*Cordia myxa* L.) belongs to the family Boraginaceae is a small to moderate-sized deciduous tree with a short bole and spreading crown. Being widely distributed in arid and semi-arid regions of north India, it has great capacity to tolerate drought. It is a multipurpose species having long been associated with health, nutrition and other diversified uses. The immature fruits of lasora are used as vegetable, pickled with raw mango and can be dehydrated for use in off season.

Maru Samridhi is an improved high yielding variety of lasora developed by selection from seedling population after long term evaluation (2006-15). The trees are vigorous, with a mean plant height 4.8 m, plant spread east-west (8.65 m) and north-south (7.1 m), collar diameter-24.70 cm, leaves broad, simple, alternate orbicular in shape, leaf apex-obtuse, leaf base round, mean fruit weight-10.5 g, bunch weight-61.5 g, number of fruits per bunch-14, pulp:stone ratio 6.5, crude protein 11.06% (dry weight basis), crude fibre 13.4% (dry weight basis), dry matter 15.37%, fruit shape round and green in colour. Seed propagated plants start flowering and fruiting in fifth year of planting while budded plants start flowering and fruiting in third year. The peak flowering is during Feb-March and fruiting during April-May. Five years mean fruit yield recorded is 84.5 kg/plant.

Propagation

Seed

The seeds should be extracted from fully ripened lasora fruits which are available during May-June. The fruits turn

yellowish cream in colour at full ripening and drop off. Such fruits can be collected for extraction of seeds. Lasora seeds loose viability upon storage, hence, they should be sown fresh immediately after extraction. The fruits should be cleared off mucilaginous pulp, washed in water and surface dried under shade. The seeds can be treated with Bavistin@ 4g/kg before sowing. These seeds are immediately sown in the polythene bags size (25 × 10 cm) filled with a mixture of compost, clay and sand (1:1:6) during first week of May. The seeds are placed vertically 1.5-inch-deep and covered with soil and watered immediately. Complete germination takes place after 15-30 days of sowing. The seedlings become ready for transplanting after about 75 days of sowing.

Vegetative Propagation

Although, lasora is generally multiplied by seeds but it results in variable plant population as it is cross pollinated species. Hence, vegetative propagation is desired to propagate true to type plants. The easiest method of clonal propagation is by budding. Old (75-90 days) seedling rootstock of commercial large fruited lasora or small fruited lasora can be used as rootstock. The scion sticks of equal diameter to that of rootstock are selected on mother plants. The rootstock seedlings are then headed back at a height of 15-20 cm from ground level and all side shoots and leaves are removed. It is then budded with I or T budding method during July-August with budwood



Bunch of lasora fruits