

CAZRI Vishal: New pomegranate variety

The pomegranate variety, CAZRI Vishal has been released by Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur in 2020. It is a cross between Ganesh and Khog varieties. Plants are medium in height and semi vigorous with spreading growth habit. It is an early maturing (120-130 days after anthesis) variety. The hybrid has potential for both internal and export market because of extra large sized fruits of about 350 g and attractive yellowish red colour fruit with very soft seeds. Aril recovery (60%) and juice content (40-45%) is significantly higher than other popular varieties. The TSS is about 17.5-18.6°B with low acidic juice (0.48-0.52%). The fruit yield is about 20-25 kg/plant after five years of planting onward under improved management practices.

POMEGRANATE is an important commercial fruit crop of the dry regions of world. India, Iran, China, USA and Turkey are the five major producers of pomegranate in the world. Recent growth trend have shown a rapid increase in area under pomegranate in India due to its versatile adaptability, higher economic return and export demand. The fruit is consumed fresh and as processed products, viz. juice, syrup, jam, wine etc. It is a good source of protein, carbohydrate, minerals, antioxidants, vitamin A, B and C. The fruit has been useful in controlling many medical complaints, viz. heart diseases, cancer, osteoarthritis, diarrhoea, hyperacidity, tuberculosis, leprosy, abdominal pain, fever, dysentery, diarrhoea etc.

The pomegranate variety, CAZRI Vishal has been released by Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur in 2020. It is a F1 hybrid between Ganesh and Khog. It is an early maturing (120-130 days after anthesis) variety. Plants are medium headed with medium foliage density, leaf large and elliptical lanceolate in shape, leaf apex-acute. The fruits are large, attractive in shape and

yellowish red coloured rind. The seeds are soft with pink arils. Aril (60%) and juice content (40-45%) is significantly higher than other popular varieties. The TSS is about 17.5-18.6 °B with low acidic juice (0.48-0.52%). Plants start flowering and fruiting in second year of planting while economical yield starts in fourth years onwards. The fruit yield is about 20-25 kg/plant after 5 years of planting and onward under improved management practices.

Propagation

Air-layering and stem cutting are most easy and common vegetative methods of its propagation. However, under arid region, stem cutting is more successful. Six to nine month old previous season's shoot is suitable for making cuttings. About 20-25 cm long and 0.6-1.2 cm thick cuttings with 3-4 buds is ideal. Indole-3-butyric acid (IBA) @ 2000 ppm with the quick dip method (1 min dip) is optimum for higher rooting and field survival. The optimum time for raising of stem cuttings is June-July, however, it may be multiplied in February-March also. The stem cuttings are planted in the polythene



Branches laden with fruit



Mature fruits

