

Avocado cultivation in the sub-tropical zones

Background

- Avocado is a versatile high value fruit.
- Research based proven for cultivation in subtropical areas (Potohar and Hazara)
- Also tested successfully on farmer's fields in Potohar and Hazara
- Needs to extend to farmers for cultivation at large scale
- As nutrient rich and new fruit has potential to fetch high prices and enhance the income of poor farmers



Why Avacado Cultivation

- Plant of high value fruit because of much Proteins, Riboflavin, Niacin & Vitamin C, 11 minerals, Rich in fat (monounsaturated), and Low starch & low sodium
- Less cost of cultivation as compared to crops but high rate of return
- Fruit bearing life >50 years
- Use at local level will resduce the nutrient defucency
- High potential of Export.



Issues/challenges

- Ownwershship development through advocacy
- Sustenance of farmers
- Security concerns in Hazara
- Farmers education & training
- Limited saplings available
- Infrastructure (road, market)
- Water scarcity



Implementation Strategy

- Survey based selection of potential areas at least with minimum irrigation resources
- Nursery raising at location near to place of cultivation to avoid the unnecessary stress to young seedlings and for the sake of cost effective
- Installation of drip irrigation to enhance the water efficiency
- Free distribution of saplings but loan arrangements for rest of the operations
- Training of farmers

Benefits

- Export potential, High value crop
- Environmental improvement
- Development of village entrepreneurship
- Livelihood improvement
- An alternative option with the farmers
- A source of high quality nutrients to nutrients deficient people
- Availability for diplomats & foreigners

