INTRODUCTION

- Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) is one of the oldest cultivated trees (Zaid and Wet, 2002)
- Important component of farming system in dry and semi-arid regions (Khushk et al., 2009)
- One of the greatest producers of food per hectare (Zaid and Wet, 2002)
- Diverse usages (food, fuel, shelter, handicrafts etc.) (FAO, 1993)

DATE PALM IN PAKISTAN

- Pakistan is among top producers of dates

Major date growing areas
- Khairpur, Sukkur (Sindh)
- Turbat, Panjgur (Balochistan)
- Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzafargarh, Jhang (Punjab)
- Dera Ismail Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

Common characteristics of date growing areas
- Poverty
- Low HDI
- Food insecurity
- Limited livelihood opportunities

The Main Hypothesis

“The date palm tree has potential to improve food security and economic condition of farmers because of its diverse usages and high nutritional value”

Objectives of the study
- To explore usage pattern of date palm
- To study the supply chain of dates
- To identify training need of growers
MATERIALS AND METHOD

The areas surveyed
- Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffargarh, and Faisalabad (Punjab)
- Sukkur (Sindh)
- Dera Ismail Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa).

Qualitative data
- Key informants interview
- Focus group interview

Quantitative Data
- D.G Khan District
  - Tehsil D.G Khan
    - UC
      - 3 Villages
        - 30 farmers
      - UC
        - 3 Villages
        - 30 farmers
      - UC
        - 3 Villages
        - 30 farmers
    - UC
      - 3 Villages
      - 30 farmers
  - Total 120 respondents

Results and Discussion

Household usages

Commercial usages

Consumption of dates as a food

Domestic container
Bread Dish
Mat (material)
Bed frame
**SINDH**

- Contract system (Rs. 1000-1700 per tree)
- Limited farmers’ access to credit facility
- Informal sources of credit (mostly commission agents) with high interest rate
- Limited cold storage, processing facilities

**CONCLUSION**

- Date palm tree has potential to improve food security and economic condition of farmers because of its diverse usages as food, shelter, income generation and high nutritional value, however proper marketing and training of farmers about production technology is needed.

### Table 4.14: Distribution of the respondents according to their awareness level regarding date palm production technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awareness about</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Variety</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.J</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daska</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khoirot</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shamma</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asool</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>62.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jannum</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi Irrigation</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just after sowing</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>37.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>54.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>54.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SUPPLY CHAIN OF DATES

- **Growers**
- **Contractors**
- **Wholesalers**
- **Retailers**
- **Consumers**

**Marketing chain of dates in Dera Ismail Khan**

**Supply chain of dates in Pakistan**

**Table of dates’ export to other countries:**

- **KPK**
- **Faisalabad**
- **Lahore**
- **Rawalpindi**
- **Punjab**
- **Balochistan**
- **Sindh**
- **Iran**
- **South Punjab**
- **Sukkur Market**

**CONCLUSION**

- Date palm tree has potential to improve food security and economic condition of farmers because of its diverse usages as food, shelter, income generation and high nutritional value, however proper marketing and training of farmers about production technology is needed.
Suggestions

- Improved varieties, credit facilities and training opportunities regarding fertilizer application and pests and diseases.
- Cold storages and processing plants
- Proper place for the farmers to market their own produce