



## A study of date palm market chain and role in food security and livelihoods of farmers in the South Punjab



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## 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

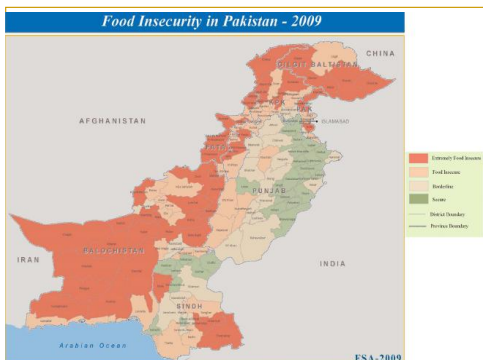
- Khairpur, Sukkur (Sindh)
- Turbat, Panjgur (Balochistan)
- Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzafargarh, Jhang (Punjab)
- Dera Ismail Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)



## 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



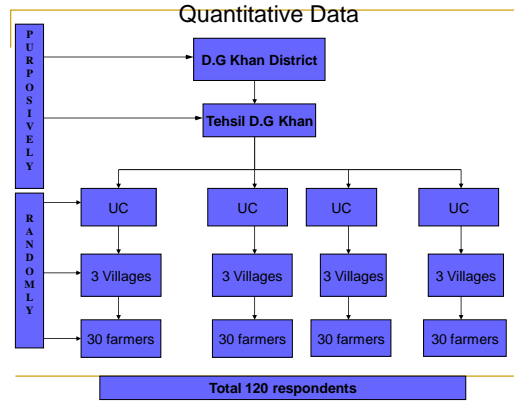
## MATERIALS AND METHOD

### The areas surveyed

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

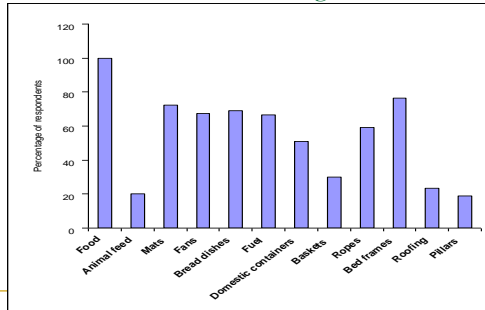
### Qualitative data

- Key informants interview
- Focus group interview

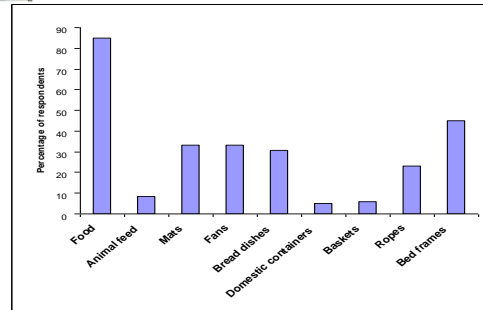


## Results and Discussion

### Household usages



### Commercial usages



Domestic container



Bread Dish



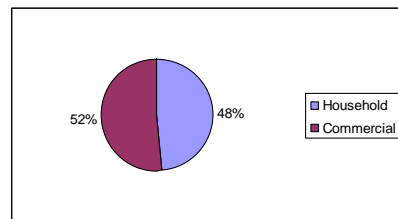
Mat (material)



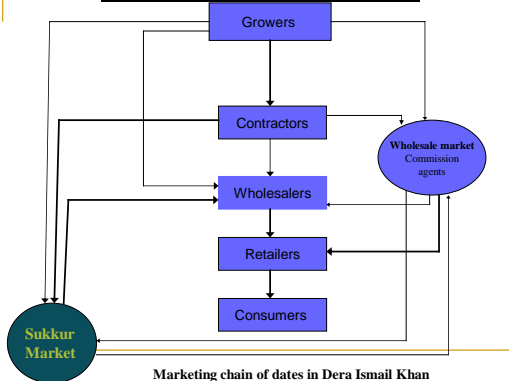
Bed frame



### Consumption of dates as a food



**SUPPLY CHAIN OF DATES**



**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

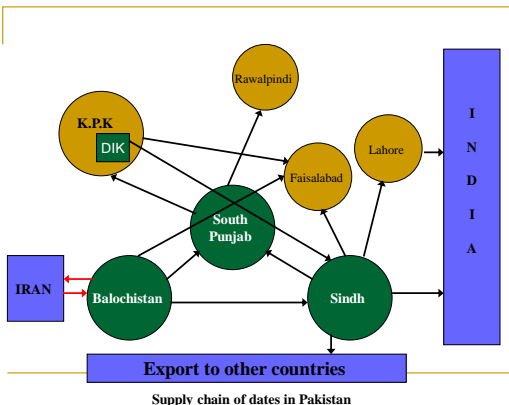


Table 4.14: Distribution of the respondents according to their awareness level regarding date palm production technology

Awareness about	Yes	
	Frequency	Percentage
<b>A) Varieties</b>		
Hillawi	38	31.6
Karbalain	4	3.3
B J	10	8.3
Dhaldi	44	36.7
Khudrowi	5	4.2
Shaman	6	5.0
Assel	70	58.3
Jaman	2	1.7
<b>B) Irrigation</b>		
Just after transplanting	88	73.3
Summer	68	56.7
Winter	66	55.0

<b>C) Fertilizer</b>		
Farm Yard Manure	20	16.7
Diammonium Phosphate	24	20.0
Sulphate of potash	6	5.0
Urea	13	10.8
<b>D) Sucker transplanting</b>		
August-Oct	25	20.8
Feb-March	17	14.2
<b>E) Pests and diseases</b>		
Aphids	3	2.5
Borer	11	9.2
Scales	6	5.0
Red palm weevil	3	2.5

**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.



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## 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
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