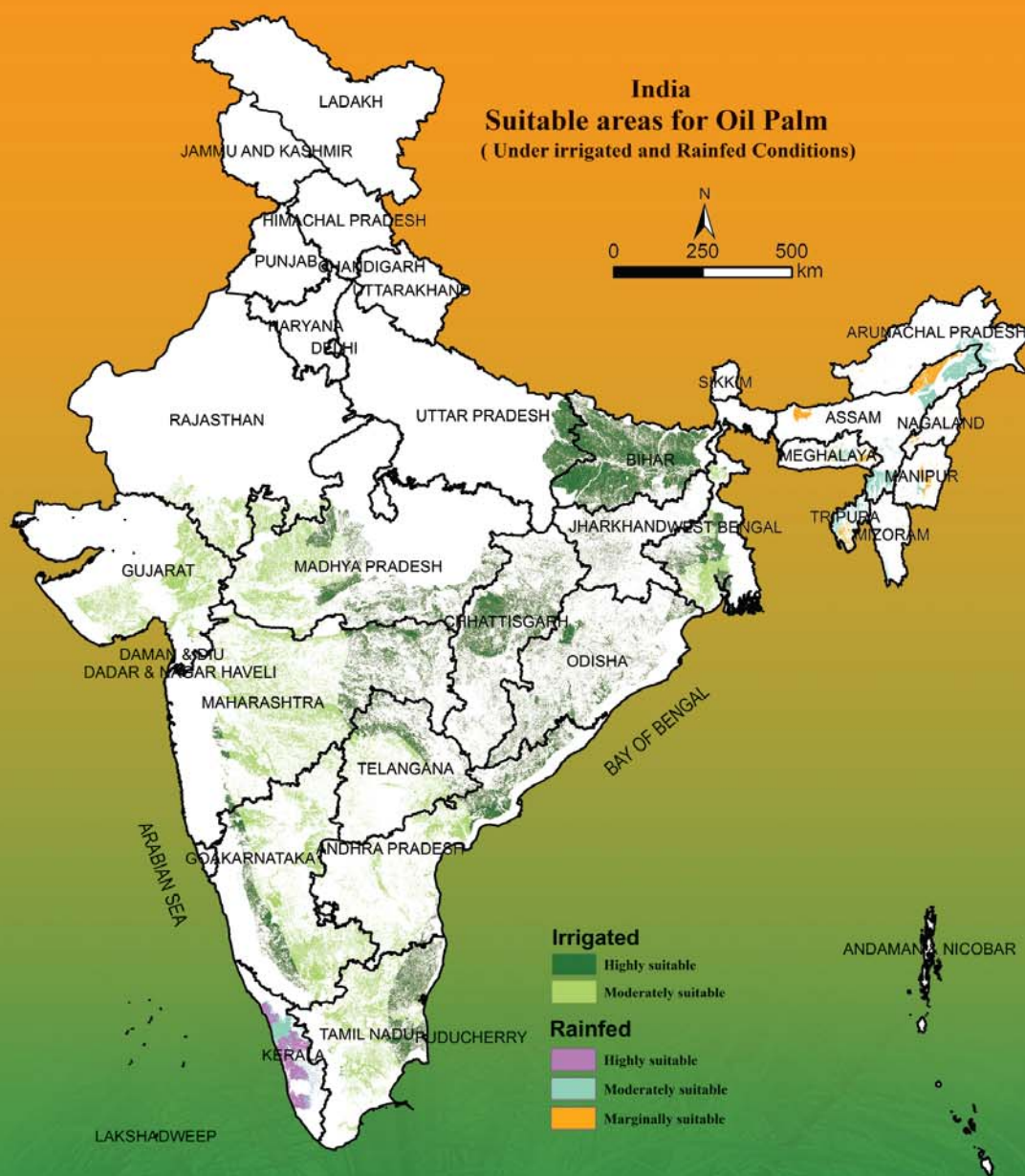


Reassessment of Potential Areas for Oil Palm Cultivation in India and Revision of Targets Upwards



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PREFACE

Oil Palm is known to be the highest oil yielding crop that has been introduced in India during late twentieth century to meet the growing demand of vegetable oils. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (ICAR-IOPR) are undertaking the development and research aspects for promoting the crop in the Country. Various committees constituted by Government of India (GOI) have identified 1.93 million ha as suitable for oil palm cultivation in India. Presently the crop is being cultivated in 15 Indian States to an extent of 0.32 million ha. The wide gap between identified potential area and cultivated area is a cause of concern and needs to be addressed.

In this context, GOI thought that there was an urgent need for a new “Oil Palm Promotion Policy” [Reference to PMO ID No. 4869738/PMO/2018-ES-II dated 11-07-2018 Chaired by Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India on 09-07-2018], which envisaged that the targets for area expansion should be revised upwards for faster area expansion. Accordingly Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken a lead by constituting a Committee consisting of Dr. B.M.C. Reddy, Ex-Vice chancellor, YSRHU, Andhra Pradesh as Chairman along with six expert members for “Reassessment of potential areas for Oil Palm cultivation in India and revision of targets upwards” so as to give fresh impetus to future area expansion of Oil Palm in the Country.

The Committee held six review meetings with various stakeholders of oil palm development at Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Arunachal Pradesh, Kolkata and Pedavegi along with field visits. The reassessment of potential areas was done by using GIS and Remote Sensing applications with the assistance of Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) and ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (ICAR-NBSS & LUP) and targets were revised upwards.

The Committee is grateful to Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi for providing an opportunity to review the oil palm development programmes in the country and giving valuable guidance. The Committee would also like to thank Mrs. Subha Thakur, Joint Secretary, DAC&FW for her suggestions and financial support for undertaking this task. The Committee is thankful to Dr. A. K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Hort. Sci.), ICAR, Dr. W. S. Dhillon and Dr. T. Janakiram, Asst. Director General (Hort. Sci.), ICAR for their invaluable support during the course of this study. The support rendered by Scientists and other officials of ICAR-IOPR and ICAR-NBSS & LUP is gratefully acknowledged.



This document consists of reassessed potential areas (up to district/block level) based on scientific tools along with constraints faced by stakeholders in various Oil Palm growing States. Strategies and Recommendations for enhanced area expansion of Oil Palm in the Country are suggested. Lastly, Specific Recommendations have been proposed for holistic development of Oil Palm in the North-Eastern Region (NER).

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