Pruning Techniques for Adoption of "High Density Planting" in Mango cv. Dashehari

The poor productivity of mango orchard can be attributed to wide tree spacing, lack of canopy architecture and long juvenile phase. In India, mango occupies 20.7 % production share with an area of 2.21 million hectares and annual production of 18.50 million tonnes having productivity of 8.34 t/ha. (NHB, Data Base-2015), whereas, in Uttarakhand the productivity of mango is 4.16 t/ha., which is extremely low. In order to meet the challenges of high productivity, optimization of growth parameters and minimization of the unproductive components of trees without sacrificing the overall health of the tree and quality of the product are of paramount importance. Suitable levels, frequency and time of pruning play an important role in deciding the quality and yield of the crop. Fruit plants attain tall and huge structure as they are not regulated by proper pruning and training from initial stage, leads to higher orchard management cost and it becomes quite cumbersome as well as expensive to restructure the canopy of the trees. In general, management of canopy architecture deals with positioning and maintenance of plant's frame work in relation to optimum productivity and quality fruits. **Presently, the high density planting in mango is gaining momentum wherein, planting at a closer spacing is being adopted,** which is capable of enhancing productivity **and ensuring continuous cropping of mango trees besides getting good quality mangoes.** Thus, keeping in view the importance of pruning an experiment was carried out to standardize the pruning technique for adoption of "High Density Planting" with better yield and quality of mango cv. Dashehari.