

Ladakh Apricot

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In news—The Ministry of Commerce and Industry through its export promotion body APEDA is in process of hand-holding of Apricot value chain stakeholders to enhance export from Ladakh under the brand 'Ladakh Apricot'.

'Ladakh Apricot'-

- **Ladakh is the biggest apricot producer in the country** nearly 62 percent share in total.
- The region produced approximately 1,999 tons of dried apricot, making it the **largest producer of dried apricot in the country**. The total area under apricot cultivation is 2,303 hectares in Ladakh.
- In Ladakh, it is locally known as '*Chuli*'.
- The native apricot genotypes of Ladakh possess **unique and important characteristics, such as high TSS content, late and extended flowering** and fruit maturity, and white seed stone phenotype, which offer opportunity for exporting to different nations worldwide.
- Ladakh Apricot is **classified into two broad categories based on kernel taste and stone color**.
- **Fruits with bitter kernels are called khante meaning bitter**, while those with sweet kernels are called *nyarmo* meaning sweet.
- **They are further divided into two sub-groups based on seed stone color**.
- **Fruit with white seed stone is called Raktsey Karpo** (Rakstey means seed, karpō means white), while those with brown seed stone are called *Raktsey Nakpo* or *Nyarmo* (black seeded).

About Apricot-

- Apricot, (*Prunus armeniaca*), **fruit tree of the rose family (Rosaceae), cultivated** throughout the **temperate**

- regions** of the world, especially in the Mediterranean.
- Apricots are **closely related to peaches, almonds,** plums, and cherries .
 - They are eaten fresh or cooked and are preserved by canning or drying.
 - The fruit is also widely made into jam and is often used to flavour liqueurs.
 - They are a **good source of vitamin A** and are **high in natural sugar**. Dried apricots are an excellent **source of iron**.
 - In 2020, world production of apricots was 3.72 million tonnes, led by Turkey with 22% of the total (table).
 - Other major producers (in descending order) were Uzbekistan, Iran, Italy, and Algeria.