

## **Round Melon [*Praecitrullus fistulosus* (Stocks) Pangalo] an under exploited Vegetable**

**Kalyani Pradhan<sup>1</sup>, Sandeep Rout<sup>1</sup>, Ajay Kumar Prusty<sup>2</sup> and Barsha Tripathy<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Agriculture, Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Odisha-754006, India

<sup>2</sup>M.S.Swaminathan School of Agriculture, **Centurion University of Technology and Management**, Paralakhemundi, Gajapati, Odisha-761211, India

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### **Abstract:**

*Praecitrullus fistulosus* (Cucurbitaceae) known as Indian round gourd or Tinda is a squash-like cucurbit having lots of essential nutrients found to be effective against various ailments in human being in Ayurveda. It's a god gifted plant herbaceous in nature mainly grown for its immature fruit used in preparation of rayata or vegetable curries. In India it is used as fodder and in medicine too. It may be used as a source of resistance to the insect whiteflies for the improvement of watermelons. The application of inorganic fertilizers like 75 per cent NPK, vermicompost @ 2t ha<sup>-1</sup> along with Azospirillum and Phosphobacteria @ 2 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> found to have beneficial effect on the yield of Tinda. Punjab Tinda and Arka Tinda are the only varieties of potential yield. As a potential crop, resistance to mosaic, having ascorbic acid content in fruit and a lots of medicinal as well as health benefits is associated with it, this crop need more exploitation for farming community.

**Keywords:** Ecology, medicinal value, *Praecitrullus fistulosus*, yield.

### **Contact Author**

**Kalyani Pradhan**

Faculty of Agriculture, Sri Sri  
University, Cuttack, Odisha-  
754006, India

### **Introduction**

*Praecitrullus fistulosus* is a vegetable of the largest family Cucurbitaceae popularly known as Tinda, having a number of synonyms *i.e.* round melon, Indian baby pumpkin, Indian round gourd or apple gourd, Indian squash. It is mainly grown for its immature fruit, much popular in south