



## Contents

- COMMERCIAL HYDROPONICS FACILITY OF CUCUMBER KING OF CANADA
- IHT EDUCATION
- TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION
- UPCOMING TRAINING PROGRAMMES

## Cucumber King of Canada and Promotion of Hydroponic Farming in India

For furthering the scope of the commercial hydroponics Dr. Vijay K. Koul, Assoc. Director, IHT visited highly successful Hydroponic Farm of Sh. Paramjit Singh Minhas known as Cucumber King of Canada in September 2022.

The story of Paramjit Singh Jee originally from Kouhja village near Adampur in Punjab is quite inspiring, a clear message that even without knowing anything about farming a person can still undertake Hi Tech Farming like Hydroponics by right training and dedication. For a man who came to Canada with just 8 dollars in his pocket 35 years ago, his face brims with pride as he narrates his journey to his multi-million-dollar agro-business.

Starting as a labour in 1981 now owns 30 acre greenhouses- Singh Greenhouses over his 130-acre farm property at Hamilton near Toronto and now produces over 700,000 packages of English cucumber which finds prominent place in giant Canadian stores like Walmart, Costco, Metro, Sobeys, Longo's and Loblows etc. Besides cucumber now Tomato is being also produced hydroponically in the Singh Greenhouses.

In India like other developed countries Hydroponics gaining ground as new breed of entrepreneurs who are techno savvy are taking interest in investing in commercial Hydroponic Crop Production. These prospective entrepreneurs are mostly from engineering or management background. Post Covid-19 outbreak people have become more conscious about safe food and here is the technology which offers a viable solution for the production of safe food without harmful pesticides, heavy metals and microorganisms.

There is clear advantage like unlike commercial farming where the water can run-off and evaporate in huge quantities, hydroponics



*Sh. Paramjit Singh Minhas Canada's cucumber king and his son Sh. Gurmeet Singh- Hydroponic Expert with Dr. Vijay Koul of Institute of Horticulture Technology in 'Singh Greenhouses' in Hamilton Canada. The 130 acres facility produces over 700,000 packages of English cucumbers, which is sold in stores across Canada.*

recycles its water and only loses water to the plant's growth and insignificant amount to evaporation. Hydroponics uses 95% less water than commercial farming.

Institute of Horticulture Technology established in 2009 has been providing trainings in Hydroponic Crop Production since last 7 years and is the best centre in India for the Hands on Trainings in Hydroponics. Realizing the importance of Hydroponic technology in ensuring efficient resource, space and time utilization in times of climate change and need for safe food "School of Hydroponics" has been established by the institute.

The School of Hydroponics offers courses on hydroponic farming that covers hydroponic types, setting up of hydroponic system, hydroponic farming supplies, hydroponic transplanting, home hydroponic system, vertical farming hydroponics system, hydroponic commercial farming, industrial hydroponic farming and hydroponic farming business plan. Our faculty has vast experience of hydroponics based on the hydroponic trainings received by them in the Netherlands.



*Sh. Paramjit Singh Minhas and Dr. Vijay Koul discussing possible collaboration for the promotion of Hydroponics in India.*

## IHT EDUCATION -Entrepreneurial Capacity Building Trainings

**Hydroponics:** Institute organized various training programmes for entrepreneurs on hydroponic from basics to commercial production in different durations and slots, (three days online training and two weeks online cum offline). During the training proper knowledge about the functioning and growing of hydroponic system and other related factors was elaborated as per trainees. It is an important course for those who have general horticultural knowledge and interest in hydroponic, through this course all aspects of hydroponics from growing to harvesting were included like water quality analysis for open & closed loop, plant nutrition constituents and management, nursery production, seeds identification, climate control in greenhouse, cladding materials, pruning, physiological disorders of hydroponics crops and hydroponic greenhouse pest management.



*Trainees undergoing hands on training in hydroponic nursery production*



**Mushroom Production:** Training three days online training programme on “Mushroom Cultivation” was organized by IHT. The main objective behind the training was to teach to the trainees’ knowledge and skills, which allow them to establish a mushroom cultivation enterprise, or to cultivate mushrooms in a form of extra-earnings, or simply as a hobby.

The all the components of the course were covered under online interactive lectures on structure for mushroom cultivation, cultivation practices for mushroom, compost for mushroom cultivation, spawn production, methods of seed/spawn sowing in grow bags, casing and methods of casing preparation, irrigation for mushroom cultivation and application of fungicide /insecticide.

**Protected Cultivation:** A seven-days training programme on “protected cultivation of vegetables and flowers” was organized for entrepreneurs, at Institute of Horticultural Technology Greater Noida from October 3rd – 8th 2022.

The objective of the programme was to develop entrepreneurship in protected cultivation of vegetables and flowers by imparting hands-on training and class room lectures, so that the interested youth may take up their own entrepreneurship activity for improving their profitability and productivity.

During training entrepreneurs were highly interested in their visit to Technology Park of IHT. They were provided hands on trainings in the protected cultivation for vegetables and flowers. The major components of the course were soil health management, soil sterilization, solarization, nursery production, bed preparation – soil and soilless, amendments, pH, EC correction, mulching – organic and inorganic, nutrient management, integrated pest management, post-harvest handling, storage.



*Few glimpse of training programmes organized in IHT Greater Noida campus on protected cultivation of vegetables crops and hydroponic crop production*

## TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION

### Training Programme on “Production Technology of Hi-Tech Mini Plug Nursery of Vegetables Crops”

IHT, Mandira distributed vegetable seedling to the selected beneficiary farmers of Assam and organized training programme for farmers on “Production Technology of Hi-Tech Mini Plug Nursery of Vegetables Crops” with an objective to demonstrate plug tray nursery technology and addressing critical issues in quality seedling production.



*IHT Experts explaining production technology of hi-tech mini plug nursery of vegetables crops to farmers of Assam in IHT Mandira Assam*



Mr. Abinash Mazumder - IHT faculty distributing plug type nursery trays to farmers of Assam in IHT Mandira Assam

## UPCOMING TRAINING PROGRAMMES

S. No.	Title	Duration	Mode of Training
1.	Landscape Horticulture	2 Week	Online cum Offline
2.	Commercial Hydroponics	2 Week	Online cum Offline
3.	Online Basic Hydroponic	3 Days	Online
4.	Nursery Production	3 Days	Online
5.	Mushroom Production	3 Days	Online
6.	Protected Cultivation of Vegetables Crops	1 Week	Online and Offline

\*Customized courses on protected cultivation of vegetable crops, commercial hydroponics, mushroom cultivation, vegetables nursery production, forest plant nursery management, commercial hydroponic also offered on demand.

For more details, contact: Anish Ranjan, Relationship Manager, Mobile +91 8860082566



इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ हॉर्टीकल्चर टेक्नोलॉजी  
Institute of Horticulture Technology

Recognised as SIRO by Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India

ISO 9001 : 2008

**Main Campus:** 42A, Knowledge Park III, Greater Noida - 201310, Uttar Pradesh

**North East Campus:** Mandira, Kamrup - 781127, Assam

Mobile: 8860621160, website: [www.iht.edu.in](http://www.iht.edu.in), Email: [enquiry@iht.edu.in](mailto:enquiry@iht.edu.in), [training@iht.edu.in](mailto:training@iht.edu.in)