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GOVT. OF INDIA TO SET UP 10 'CLEAN PLANT CENTRES' TO BOOST FRUIT CROP PRODUCTION IN INDIA

The Government of India is planning to create ten clean plant centres. These centres will focus on increasing fruit crop production. Under the programme, the Government of India will focus on increasing fruit production in the country. Centres will focus on fruit crops such as walnut, apple, almond, pomegranate, mango, almond, grapes, and others. GoI will invest Rs 2,200 crores in these centres by 2030



The Centres will work on similar pattern as in the United States where National Clean Plant Network-Fruit Trees (NCPN-FT) program brings together a diverse group including industry leaders, plant pathologists, state and federal regulators, and clean plant centers. They work together to produce healthy virus-tested tree rootstocks and scion varieties essential for the nursery and fruit tree grower operations. Similar model work in Israel, Korea and other countries.

The primary focus of such Centres is to prevent diseases caused by viruses and virus-like agents that can potentially impact the yield, appearance, and taste of the fruit. Scientists and researchers working in these programs will develop strategies to minimize viruses' economic impact on the tree fruit and nursery industries.

Also, it is difficult to store the plants in quarantine for two years. The centres will help in reducing this period to six months. Demand for planting material has increased in the country. Unfortunately, India is now importing these plant materials. For instance, between 2018 and 2020, 21.44 lakh apple plant materials were imported. In 2020, 49, 57 lakh apple plant material was imported.

The centres will provide services such as disease diagnosis, therapeutics, creating baby plants from the mother, multiplying the plants, etc. The centres will be funded completely by the Central Government. The centres will be implemented in the PPP model. The National Horticulture Board is the implementing agency.

ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS

Commercial Hydroponics

Hydroponics is a highly advanced and most productive soil-less method of farming for growing veggies in a controlled environment, the vegetables so grown are disease-free, fresh, highly nutritious, and delicious, without using any pesticides, or chemicals. If proper knowledge to each individual about Hydroponics system, then all can grow food for themselves. This system occupies less space, requires only water, round the year production, high productivity and profitability, and grows disease-free plants. Institute has successfully organized e-training programme for prospective entrepreneurs seeking trainings in “Commercial Hydroponics”. The participants were well explained about the parameters of nutrients that are required for the optimal growth of plants, healthy nursery production and controlling temperature and lighting schedules to improve plant production.

Protected Cultivation of Vegetables Crops

Training programs for entrepreneurs’ on “Protected Cultivation” were also conducted in this month, in offline mode. The trainees were explained about the significance of following standard operating procedures to be adopted during nursery production. Interactive lectures were provided on the protected cultivation of capsicum, cucumber, tomato, hands on trainings sessions were also conducted in the technology park of the Institute. The major components of the course were soil health management, soil sterilization, solarization, nursery production, soil and soilless bed preparation, amendments, pH, EC correction, mulching, nutrient management, integrated pest management, post-harvest handling, storage in zero energy chambers.



Trainees Undergoing Hands on Training on “Training and Punning in Tomatoes, Cucumber and Capsicum”

HYDROPONIC TECHNOLOGY EXPOSURE VISIT OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF DDU COLLEGE NEW DELHI IN IHT GREATER NOIDA

IHT organized training cum exposure visit programme for students of DDU College New Delhi with an objective to provide them an opportunity to interact with senior horticulture scientists and see latest technology i.e. hydroponic- practices being adopted in cultivation of vegetables and other horticultural crops. The exposure visit consisted of theoretical and practical sessions. During the training, participants gained valuable experience in the hydroponic technology and practically had an opportunity to see as to how hydroponic systems works in the technology Park of the Institute.



In addition to these lectures, several field visits were conducted to show the commercial farming systems in the technology park and had an overview of the farm and the different hydroponic systems implemented. They also learned about Vertical Systems, NFT Techniques, etc.



Students of DDU College New Delhi during their Exposure Visit in Technology Park of IHT Greater Noida for Hydroponic Technology



CAPACITY BUILDING ONLINE PROGRAMMES

IHT also conducted various 3-7 days e-training programmes in different slots in online mode on:

Online Hydroponic Training: A three-day online training programme was organized by the IHT for progressive entrepreneurs on hydroponic crop production in October 2023.

Mushroom Production: A three-day online training programme on "Mushroom Production" was organized by IHT during October 2023. The main objective of the training programme was to provide training on production technology of button and oyster mushroom, and mushroom spawn production to the trainees. The topics covered during the training programme were importance of mushroom production for increasing farm income, introduction to cultivable mushroom, mushroom substrate preparation, production technology of oyster mushroom, mushroom spawn production, machinery, and equipment for mushroom farm, disease and pest management, sanitation & food safety in the mushroom farm, post-harvest packaging and management, etc.

Online Landscape Training: Institute of technology organized 7 days online training programme on "Landscape Horticulture". This program was very much appropriated for those who have a passion for design, growing and caring for plants, as well as a strong interest in nature and environmental issues. In this training programme trainees were developed skills in general horticulture, plant identification, designing and constructing gardens.

UPCOMING TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Choose the courses that interest you. Pay only for the ones you need. Post your queries any time after the module and get them answered by IHT team of experts.

S. No.	Title	Duration	Mode of Training
01	Landscape Horticulture	2 Week	Online cum Offline
02	Commercial Hydroponics	2 Week	Online cum Offline
03	Online Basic Hydroponic	3 Days	Online
04	Protected Cultivation of Vegetables Crops	1 Week	Online and Offline
05	Mushroom Production	3 Days	Online

***Customized courses are also offered on demand.**

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