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IHT Establishes Citrus Centre in Assam.

Citrus growing regions of India are threatened by a complex problems majorly Tristeza Virus and Citrus greening disease (Huanglongbing, HLB) which cause a gradually citrus decline, finally orchards become unproductive. Citrus productivity if India hovers around 10 tonnes/ha as compared to 25-30 tonnes/ha in developed citrus producing countries. In North-eastern states of India because of citrus decline the productivity is lesser than the national average.

Singh et.al (2017)* found that out of 300 Khasi mandarin tree samples collected from the six NE States, 172 were found to be positive for CTV infection by DAS-ELISA indicating 57.33% overall CTV disease incidence. Results revealed presence of CTV in all the surveyed states showing a maximum incidence of 66.00% in Arunachal Pradesh followed by 62.00% in Assam, 60.00% in Meghalaya and Nagaland, 54.00% in Sikkim and 42.33% in Tripura. Higher CTV concentration was recorded in the age group > 15 years (69.09%) followed by 10–15 (57%) and 5–10 years (43.33%).

Keeping the importance of virus free bud wood and indexed root stock for the generation of CTV and Greening disease free planting material in citrus Institute of Horticulture Technology has established Citrus Nursery Centre in Mandira, Assam for clean nursery plant production of Khasi Mandrin, Sweet Orange, Vietnam Malta Mosambi, Assam Lemon and other Citrus cultivars. The planting material is individually indexed for the being disease free and are maintained in the modern containment facilities established by the Institute for the purpose. IHT conducts awareness programs like "Mass Production of Quality Planting Material of Citrus," benefiting local farmers.

IHT provides indexed citrus planting material to local farmers. This initiative ensures that farmers have access to high-quality citrus seedlings, crucial for establishing healthy and productive orchards. By providing disease-free nursery seedlings through their integrated approach, IHT supports farmers in combating the challenges posed by various citrus diseases. This direct provision of planting material not only enhances citrus production but also promotes sustainable agricultural practices among local farming communities. It reflects IHT's commitment to transferring technology and knowledge, empowering farmers to improve their livelihoods and contribute to the global citrus industry's growth.



Clean Planting Material of Citrus in Containment facilities in Citrus Centre IHT, Mandira, Assam

*Amit Kumar Singh, Ng, Tombisana Meetei, Brijesh Kumar Singh and Nirmal Mandal(2017) High incidence of citrus tristeza virus in mandarin (Citrus reticulata) in North-East states of India. Virusdisease, 2017 Dec; 28(4): 401–407.

Management of Fusarium wilt in NER Banana using ICAR-FUSICONT Technology

Malbhog banana cultivation in Assam faces severe threat from Fusarium wilt disease, causing significant yield losses. To save this and Sabri banana in Tripura, adoption of ICAR FUSICONT technology is critical. ICAR FUSICONT is a unique bio-fungicide that has been developed using a novel strain of the antagonistic fungi *Trichoderma reesei* (CSR-T-3) obtained from high-stress rhizosphere cultured in a unique modified CSR medium which is under IPR protection

IHT conducted training programs on Management of Fusarium wilt in NER Banana using ICAR – FUSICONT. The training programs at IHT Mandira and in farmers' fields showcase Malbhog Banana production technology, emphasizing the importance of SOP practices from planting to harvesting. Beneficiary farmers gain invaluable knowledge in organized cultivation practices, with expert guidance on banana seedling production, sucker selection, land preparation, fertigation, irrigation, and post-harvest management.



Training programme on “Management of Fusarium wilt in NER Banana using ICAR – FUSICONT Technology” and Planting Material Distribution to Beneficiary Farmers



Training programme on “Management of Fusarium wilt in NER Banana using ICAR – FUSICONT Technology” and Planting Material Distribution to Beneficiary Farmers

These initiatives are aimed at educating farmers for combating Fusarium wilt, a significant threat to banana cultivation in Northeastern Region (NER). By distributing disease-resistant planting materials, IHT supports farmers in establishing demonstration units in farmers' fields' and implementing best practices for successful production of the Banana. This comprehensive approach enhances agricultural productivity and also strengthens the resilience of banana farming communities against Fusarium wilt in NER.

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS PROGRAMMES

Protected Cultivation

The Institute organized a training program on "Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops" tailored for entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs from diverse regions across India enthusiastically enrolled in this short-term course offered by IHT. Participants engaged in hands-on training sessions focused on various aspects of protected cultivation techniques for vegetables. The program included interactive lectures, practical demonstrations, and informative field visits aimed at providing comprehensive exposure to modern agricultural practices.

Key topics covered during the training encompassed soil health management, nursery production, preparation of soil and soilless beds, nutrient management, moisture conservation through mulching, efficient water management via micro irrigation systems, integrated pest management strategies, and post-harvest handling techniques. These components were designed to equip participants with practical skills and knowledge essential for successful implementation of protected cultivation methods.

Feedback from trainees highlighted the program's practical orientation as particularly valuable, enabling them to grasp the intricacies of advanced cultivation technologies and effectively develop their entrepreneurial acumen in the agricultural sector. Overall, the training program not only fostered skill enhancement but also empowered participants to explore sustainable agricultural practices and capitalize on emerging opportunities in the field of protected vegetable cultivation.



Trainees in Hands on Training Sessions in Technology Park of IHT.

Nursery Production and Management

Nursery training is crucial as it equips individuals with essential skills to propagate and manage plants effectively. IHT's training on Nursery Production and Management provided participants with knowledge in seed propagation, transplanting, nutrient management, and pest control. Practical sessions and hands-on learning, preparing attendees to run nurseries efficiently. This training is vital as it supports sustainable agriculture, helps meet demand for quality plants, and promotes green initiatives. Participants gained expertise to enhance nursery productivity and contribute to environmental conservation.

Landscape Horticulture

IHT has successfully conducted a specialized training program on Landscape Horticulture. This initiative attracted enthusiastic participants eager to delve into the art and science of designing and maintaining beautiful outdoor spaces. The comprehensive training covered crucial aspects such as plant selection, landscape design principles, soil management, irrigation techniques, and sustainable maintenance practices.

Participants had the opportunity to engage in practical sessions, including hands-on activities like planting, pruning, and landscape maintenance. Interactive lectures provided insights into environmental considerations and the integration of aesthetics with functionality in landscaping. The program also included informative field visits to exemplary landscapes, offering participants real-world exposure and inspiration. Feedback from attendees highlighted the program's practical relevance and its role in enhancing their skills in landscape horticulture.



Capacity Building e-Trainings Programme on Mushroom Production Technology

The three-day e-training programme on "Mushroom Production Technology" organized by IHT provided entrepreneurs with essential knowledge and practical skills. Participants learned substrate preparation, cultivation techniques, disease management, and harvesting methods. The program fostered innovation and entrepreneurship in sustainable agriculture, offering interactive sessions, expert guidance, and valuable resources.

Upcoming Trainings- Explore upcoming opportunities in:

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

Stay tuned for these engaging and educational sessions designed to enhance your skills and knowledge in modern agricultural practices.

For more updates and to register for upcoming trainings, visit IHT's website or contact Mr. Anish Ranjan, Relationship Manager, Mobile +91-8860082566



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