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Empowering Farmers through Capacity Building: An Initiative by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is at the forefront of strengthening India's agricultural sector by empowering farmers with knowledge and skills. Through its innovative capacity-building programs, the ministry aims to promote sustainable farming practices, enhance productivity, and improve livelihoods.

These initiatives focus on equipping farmers with advanced technologies, modern cultivation techniques, and sustainable practices to address the challenges of agriculture today. From training in precision farming, micro-irrigation, and organic farming to exposure visits and hands-on demonstrations, the programs provide a holistic learning experience.

By collaborating with institutions, the ministry ensures that farmers gain practical insights into modern agricultural methods and emerging technologies. The ultimate goal is to make Indian agriculture more resilient, profitable, and globally competitive, empowering farmers to lead the way toward a self-reliant India.

Some notable schemes initiated by the Government of India for agriculture and farmer welfare:

1. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
2. PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi)
3. Kisan Unnati Yojana
4. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
5. Soil Health Card Scheme
6. National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
7. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
8. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
9. eNAM (National Agriculture Market)
10. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
11. Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres Scheme (ACABC)
12. FASAL (Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agro-meteorology, and Land-based observations)
13. Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)
14. Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

These schemes are designed to address various aspects of Horticulture/ agriculture, from production and irrigation to marketing and sustainability, ensuring holistic development of the farming sector.

Capacity Building Training Programmes

Institute of Horticulture Technology Hosts 7-Day Out-of-State Exposure Visit for Farmers from Deoghar, Jharkhand

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) successfully conducted a 7-day out-of-state exposure visit program for farmers from Deoghar, Jharkhand. This educational initiative, held from December 19 to 25, 2024, aimed to enhance the farmers' understanding of modern horticultural practices and expose them to innovative agricultural technologies.

The program commenced with a visit to IHT's Technology Park, where farmers observed standing crops such as tomatoes, capsicum, and cucumbers cultivated in polyhouses. They also explored open-field cultivation of various crops using advanced technologies. Hands-on demonstrations highlighted the significance of soil moisture conservation, micro-irrigation, crop care, and troubleshooting micro-irrigation systems in polyhouses.

As part of the itinerary, the participants visited Pratibha Foods Baby Corn Unit in Haryana, gaining insights into commercial food processing. An enriching visit to the Regional Mushroom Research Centre in Murthal, Haryana, followed, where they learned advanced mushroom cultivation techniques.

A key highlight of the program was the visit to the Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) in Kufri. Here, the farmers were introduced to innovative methods for growing high-quality potatoes, including breeding techniques and disease management strategies.

At Dr. YS Parmar University in Solan, the farmers were introduced to various vermicomposting techniques, showcasing the use of earthworms to recycle organic waste into nutrient-rich vermicompost. The visit also included a session on floriculture, focusing on ornamental plants and value addition of flowers. Farmers purchased high-quality vegetable seeds from the university's seed center to implement their learning back home.

The itinerary also included a visit to Solan Mandi, where farmers explored the marketing channels of apples and other horticultural produce, gaining valuable insights into market dynamics and value chains.

The program concluded with a feedback session, certificate distribution, and reflection on the farmers' learning journey. The participants expressed their gratitude for this transformative experience, which provided them with practical knowledge and innovative ideas to diversify their crops and enhance their farming practices in Deoghar.

This exposure visit underlines IHT's commitment to empowering farmers through knowledge-sharing and technology adoption, helping them achieve sustainable agricultural growth.



Interaction and demonstration on open field crop production techniques in Technology Park-IHT, Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh



Hands on training on bed preparation and laying-out mulching and drip lines in Technology Park-IHT, Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh



Farmers interaction with experts on soilless nursery production and tomato cultivation within polyhouses, cultivation of colorful capsicums, the techniques for growing plums, and grape farming

IHT Conducts 7-Day Training for Farmers from Jamshedpur and Deoghar, Jharkhand

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) organized a 7-day capacity-building training program titled “Perceive Innovative Horticultural Production Technologies” in December 2024. Sponsored by the government, the program trained 100 farmers, divided into two batches of 50 each, from Jamshedpur (East Singhbhum) and Deoghar, Jharkhand. The goal was to equip the farmers with modern horticultural knowledge and practical skills to improve their farming practices.

The training started with an orientation at IHT, covering important topics like soil health management, greenhouse technology, and hi-tech nursery production. Farmers learned practical techniques such as soil sampling, preparing growing media, seed treatment, and filling nursery trays. Hands-on sessions demonstrated how to manage climate in greenhouses, use fertigation systems, and produce quality nursery plants.

The program also included advanced interactive lectures on micro-irrigation, hydroponics, organic farming, and post-harvest management. Farmers gained valuable experience in soil and water testing, vegetable farming under protected cultivation, and sustainable practices like integrated pest management (IPM). They were also made to understand the importance and the proper use of personal protective equipment to ensure safety in farming.

Farmers visited IHT's Technology Park, historical landscaping sites in Delhi, and modern greenhouse gardens to see innovative horticultural systems in action. These visits helped them understand how advanced technologies can be applied to real-world farming.

The program ended with a feedback session, certificate distribution, and a closing ceremony. The training provided farmers with the knowledge and confidence to adopt modern horticultural methods, improve crop yields, and increase their income.

This initiative highlights IHT's dedication to empowering farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices in India.



Hands on Training on Training Pruning and Trellising of Tomato and Citrus for Better Crop Production in IHT, Technology Park



Showcasing of Potato Seed Production through Tissue Culture and Open Field Crop Production Technology in IHT, Technology Park



IHT Organizes Training on Commercial Hydroponics

In December 2024, the Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) in Greater Noida organized a specialized training program on Commercial Hydroponics. Entrepreneurs and professionals from various states across India participated in this comprehensive course to enhance their knowledge and skills in modern agricultural practices. The Hydroponics Training focused on soil-less farming methods, where participants learned to cultivate crops such as lettuce, spinach, wine crops, and herbs using nutrient-rich water. They were trained to set up and manage different hydroponic systems, including NFT (Nutrient Film Technique), Grow Bags, Dutch Buckets, and DWC (Deep Water Culture). Additionally, attendees received valuable insights on maintaining the optimal environment to maximize plant growth and productivity.

The program with practical skills are highly beneficial to the participants for starting the bio-entrepreneurship to meet the growing demand for premium crops and plants. By equipping entrepreneurs with cutting-edge knowledge and hands-on experience, IHT reaffirmed its pivotal role in transforming India's agricultural landscape. This training not only boosted individual entrepreneurial success but also contributed to the advancement of sustainable and profitable horticulture nationwide.

Upcoming Trainings

IHT is excited to offer these valuable training programs in the upcoming month to help you enhance your skills and grow your agricultural ventures.

1. Landscape Horticulture
2. Vegetables Nursery Production
3. Basic Hydroponics
4. Commercial Hydroponics
5. Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops



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