इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ हॉर्टीकल्चर टेक्नोलॉजी
Institute of Horticulture Technology
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Contents

From Subsidies to Success: NHB & MIDH Push Protected Cultivation for Sustainable Agri-Growths

Protected cultivation offers numerous key benefits, making it a vital practice for modern agriculture. It supports sustainable crop diversification and intensification across different agroclimatic zones, enabling farmers to grow a variety of crops efficiently. This method ensures the production of disease-free, high-quality planting material, particularly for horticulture, while also facilitating hybrid seed production in vegetables. Additionally, it allows for a year-round supply of fresh food, enhancing farmers' income. Furthermore, protected cultivation boosts the productivity of horticultural crops while optimizing the use of critical resources like water and fertilizers, promoting both economic and environmental sustainability.

Protected cultivation technology has immense potential for growth across India, but its success depends on proper technical guidance and implementation strategies. By 2050, this technology could expand to cover 15.0–17.0 lakh hectares, especially if adopted through a cluster-based approach for better efficiency and impact.

The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and National Horticulture Board (NHB) offer various incentives to promote protected cultivation and modern horticulture practices, including subsidies of 40-50% for setting up greenhouses, polyhouses, and shade nets along with financial assistance for drip irrigation, mulching, and precision farming technologies.

Additionally, farmers and entrepreneurs can avail credit-linked support and capital investment subsidies for post-harvest infrastructure, as well as training programs on advanced horticulture techniques under MIDH. The NHB further supports commercial horticulture projects by providing subsidies for cold storage, marketing initiatives, and other agri-business ventures, ensuring sustainable growth and higher profitability in the sector.

With the right policies, training, and eco-conscious practices, protected cultivation can revolutionize Indian agriculture, ensuring food security and higher farmer incomes in the coming decades.

IHT Training Programmes

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) remains committed to empowering farmers, growers, and agri-entrepreneurs with practical, technology-driven training programs. The Institute conducts specialized training programs—Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops, Mushroom Cultivation, Commercial Hydroponics, Landscape Horticulture and High-Value Saffron Cultivation and others each tailored to equip participants with hands-on expertise.

By blending theory, hands on training and real insights, IHT reaffirms its mission to foster a new generation of skilled horticulturists ready to drive India's agricultural growth and sustainability.

Hands-on training on saffron production

Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops

The Institute of Horticulture Technology successfully conducted a five-day training program on Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops, aimed at promoting modern farming practices among growers, entrepreneurs and agriculture professionals. The training began with an orientation and introduction to India's protected cultivation, followed by comprehensive sessions on soil health management, greenhouse structure, and climate control technologies. Participants gained practical experience in different types of polyhouse structures, soil sterilization and scientific bed preparation using mulch and precision planting techniques. Advanced modules covered nursery management—including growing media preparation, seedling care, and plug tray sowing—highlighting quality nursery practices vital for high-yielding crops.

The program also included focused lectures on micro-irrigation and fertigation, equipping participants with knowledge of modern drip systems, filters, and fertilizer injectors. Special emphasis was placed on crop-specific production technologies for tomato, capsicum, and cucumber under protected conditions. Field-based hands-on training on training and pruning, integrated pest management and physiological disorders of vegetable crops enhanced knowledge of the participants. The training concluded with certificate distribution and participant feedback. With its blend of theory and practice, IHT's program reaffirmed its role as a hub for innovative, sustainable horticulture skill development in India.

Hands-on training on tomato pruning and trellising & micro irrigation

Mushroom Cultivation Training

This three-day training for entrepreneurs began with an overview of the current scenario and future prospects of mushroom farming in India, highlighting its immense potential as a low-investment, high-return agri-business, especially for youth, small-scale farmers and urban growers. Participants were introduced to essential topics such as compost and casing preparation, pasteurization techniques and spawn production. The course emphasized both theoretical understanding and the technical setup required for a functional mushroom unit.

Special focus was given to the cultivation techniques of button and oyster mushrooms, including species selection, climate control, hygiene, and harvesting practices. Trainees engaged in practical compost-making sessions, gaining confidence in the real-time application of methods taught in class. An important module on pest management and food safety was also covered, with discussions on minimizing pesticide residues and maintaining quality standards for consumer markets.

The final day featured a field visit to a progressive mushroom farm, where trainees observed commercial-scale operations and interacted directly with successful growers. The visit served as a live demonstration of what can be achieved with the right training, infrastructure and market approach. The course concluded with a feedback session and interactive review, where participants shared their learning experiences and expressed enthusiasm to start their own ventures.

Glimpses of mushroom production

Landscape Horticulture Training

This one-week offline program focused on both the science and aesthetics of landscaping. Designed for gardeners, estate developers and green space managers, the training covered garden layout principles, plant selection, lawn establishment, pruning methods, and integrated pest management for ornamentals. Practical activities included training and pruning, garden layout, selection of plants, micro irrigation- drip and sprinkle system setup and enhancing skills in sustainable landscape maintenance.

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Commercial Hydroponics Training

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) successfully conducted a comprehensive two-week hybrid training program on Commercial Hydroponics, designed to equip participants with advanced skills in soilless agriculture. The first week featured online theoretical sessions, offering in-depth knowledge of hydroponic principles, system types like NFT, DWC, cocopeat-based cultivation, nutrient formulation, crop selection and pH/EC management. The second week transitioned to offline hands-on training at IHT's state-of-the-art Hydroponic Lab and Technology Park, where trainees received practical exposure to various hydroponic setups, including indoor vertical farming systems, nursery planning, media preparation, irrigation techniques, and crop management for leafy greens, herbs, and vine crops. Special sessions also addressed climate control, pest and disease management and government schemes/subsidies relevant to hydroponics. This well-structured hybrid format ensured that participants not only understood the scientific principles but also gained the confidence to implement and manage commercial hydroponic ventures independently and sustainably.

Trainees participation in hydroponic nursery production & leafy green production

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. Basic Hydroponics (Online)
2. Commercial Hydroponics (Online & Offline)
3. Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops (Offline)
4. Hydroponic Saffron Cultivation (Offline Program)
5. Mushroom Production Technology (Online)
5. Mushroom Production Technology (Offline)
6. Italian Herbs Production (Offline)

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