



Contents

- Cultivating 'Red Gold': IHT Empowers Prospective Entrepreneurs with Saffron Growing Expertise
- Hi-Tech Horticulture Trainings Conducted at IHT – July 2025

Cultivating 'Red Gold': IHT Empowers Prospective Entrepreneurs with Saffron Growing Expertise

At IHT, we believe in empowering farmers and agri-entrepreneurs with cutting-edge knowledge to explore high-value, sustainable crop opportunities beyond traditional farming. Saffron, often referred to as "red gold," presents an exciting prospect for growers looking to maximize returns with minimal land use through controlled environment agriculture.

Our recent three-day Saffron Cultivation Training in July 2025 brought together enthusiastic participants from across India, eager to learn the intricacies of cultivating this prized spice outside its conventional growing regions. With expert guidance on advanced techniques—from corm selection to post-harvest processing—the training highlighted how modern farming innovations can unlock new economic potential.

As India moves toward diversifying spice production, initiatives like these align with the national vision of promoting high-value crops through technology and skill development.



Hi-Tech Horticulture Trainings Conducted at IHT – July 2025

Saffron Cultivation

IHT's three-day Saffron Cultivation Training in July 2025 for the trainees coming from different states of India focused on demystifying the cultivation of one of the world's most valuable spices—saffron—for non-traditional growers. Traditionally grown in Jammu & Kashmir, saffron is gaining interest in controlled environment agriculture due to its high returns and global demand. This offline training covered corm selection, substrate management, temperature and humidity regulation, irrigation needs, flowering cycle and post-harvest handling of saffron threads. Participants had an opportunity to know about growing saffron in protected structures such as polyhouses in vertical growing stations. The faculty of IHT having experience in cultivation of saffron in such conditions explained the economics of saffron production, including market opportunities and value-added products. This short yet impactful course was attended by prospective entrepreneurs with diverse backgrounds and the regions looking to diversify. IHT's saffron training supports the national vision of expanding spice cultivation through innovation and help the progressive entrepreneurs/farmers tap into premium markets with minimal land requirements.



Hands-on training on saffron cultivation

Orchid Cultivation

Orchids, often referred to as the “jewels of the plant world,” are celebrated for their exotic beauty, extended vase life, and high market value. In India, the demand for premium orchid flowers has seen a steady rise, especially in urban and metro markets. Orchids are increasingly used in weddings, hotel and corporate décor, gifting, and even therapeutic settings.

IHT's newly launched course aims to bridge theory with practice by offering a holistic training module that includes both classroom-based instruction and live demonstrations within IHT's hi-tech orchid units. The training curriculum covers essential topics such as vegetative propagation techniques, tissue-cultured plant management, polyhouse infrastructure planning, misting and fogging systems, fertigation protocols, pest and disease control, flowering regulation, and post-harvest handling. With plans to offer this course regularly in the coming months.



Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops

Institute of Horticulture Technology conducted a one-week training on Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops at its Greater Noida campus in July 2025. This hands-on program provided participants with technical and practical insights into modern greenhouse farming of vegetables like capsicum, cucumber, and tomato. The trainees had interactive sessions on design and construction of polyhouses, microclimate regulation, drip and fertigation systems, and crop scheduling under controlled environments. Emphasis was also placed on integrated pest and nutrient management tailored to protected cultivation. The training featured live demonstrations inside functional greenhouses, enabling participants to understand real-time operations. This program attracted progressive farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, and horticulture officers interested in off-season and high-value crop production.



Glimpses of Protected Cultivation

Mushroom Cultivation

IHT organized a three-day focused training on Mushroom Cultivation in July 2025, with one-day field visit to a commercial mushroom farm. This course introduced participants to scientific mushroom farming, including substrate preparation, spawn inoculation, casing, pest management, and harvesting techniques. Participants received hands-on practice with both oyster and button mushroom production systems. The practical sessions, combined with expert lectures, helped trainees understand how to establish small-scale or commercial mushroom units with low capital investment and quick returns. The highlight of the program was the exposure visit to a functioning mushroom farm, where trainees observed real-time production, packaging, and marketing practices. This holistic learning approach motivated many to begin their own mushroom cultivation ventures. Whether aiming for home-based production or commercial expansion, the training helped demystify the technical aspects and created a pathway for nutritional security and income generation, particularly for rural youth, women, and agripreneurs.



Glimpses of mushroom cultivation

Commercial Hydroponics

The two-week Commercial Hydroponics Training conducted by IHT in July 2025 offered an in-depth look into soil-less farming practices. Delivered in a hybrid format—one week online followed by one week of practical, in-campus training—the program covered essential aspects of hydroponic systems such as NFT (Nutrient Film Technique), DWC (Deep Water Culture), and vertical farming. Trainees learned about nutrient solution preparation, EC and pH monitoring, climate control, pest management, and crop scheduling. Live demonstrations inside IHT's state-of-the-art hydroponic greenhouse helped participants visualize real-time crop cycles of lettuce, basil, spinach, and strawberries. The online sessions introduced theoretical foundations and global success models, while the offline week strengthened their technical application skills. The course attracted urban farmers, agritech startups, and youth aspiring to enter commercial hydroponics. This unique program bridges the knowledge gap and helps future growers harness high-tech, water-efficient farming methods to meet the rising demand for fresh, residue-free vegetables in urban markets.



Trainees participation in hydroponic production & leafy green production

Landscape and Garden Maintenance

The week-long Landscape and Garden Maintenance Training held at IHT in July 2025 offered comprehensive, hands-on learning for gardeners, estate supervisors, and horticulture enthusiasts. This practical course focused on the aesthetic and functional aspects of maintaining gardens and public green spaces. Topics included pruning techniques, seasonal flower bed design, turf management, irrigation system upkeep, and pest control in ornamental plants. Participants received training on the use of garden tools, lawn mowers, and organic inputs to maintain healthy landscapes. Emphasis was also placed on sustainable landscaping practices such as water conservation, composting, and selection of native plants. Live demonstration plots within the IHT campus provided real-time exposure to garden upkeep and renovation methods. The training empowered participants to improve the visual appeal, ecological balance, and functionality of green spaces in residential, institutional, and public areas. Many trainees expressed interest in applying these skills professionally in landscape development projects and maintenance contracts.



Trainees participation in landscape horticulture