



Contents

- Cultivating Prosperity: How India's MIDH is Uplifting Farmers
- Trainings at IHT: Practical Learning and Innovation in Horticulture

Cultivating Prosperity: How India's MIDH is Uplifting Farmers

A quiet revolution is reshaping rural, peri urban and urban India. Spearheaded by the Mission for Integrated Horticulture Development (MIDH), this transformation is empowering millions of farmers and other bio entrepreneurs by shifting the focus from traditional staples to high-value horticulture—fruits, vegetables, spices, flowers, and plantation crops.

The mission addresses a critical need: enabling smallholder farmers to maximize income from limited land. By providing a holistic support system, MIDH is boosting rural incomes, enhancing nutritional security and building climate resilience.

The Four Pillars of MIDH's Success:

1. **Boosting Production:** Distribution of high-quality planting material and promotion of hi-tech horticulture, organic and natural farming, advanced techniques like precision farming and protected cultivation to increase yields.
2. **Reducing Waste:** Subsidies for cold storage, packhouses, and processing units minimize post-harvest losses and enable farmers to profit from value-added products.
3. **Strengthening Markets:** Development of market infrastructure and promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) ensure better price realization and direct market access.
4. **Building Skills & Capacity:** A cornerstone of MIDH is its focus on creating a knowledge-driven sector through targeted capacity building.

Moving beyond traditional support, MIDH's commitment to capacity building is a game-changer. This is achieved through:

- **Trainings:** With the state and out of the state hands-on training for farmers on advanced techniques like protected cultivation, nursery management, Soilless Crop Production, High density plantation, micro irrigation, precision farming, integrated pest management, water-use efficiency and post-harvest handling and other tailored courses.
- **Exposure Visits:** Farmers are taken to successful horticulture clusters to learn best practices first hand, fostering seeing is believing learning.

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT): As a premier Institutions with world class infrastructure and experienced experts, HT plays a pivotal role in undertaking capacity building training programmes in different modules like out of the state Training Programmes & Exposure Visits and within the state trainings and exposure visit of farmers and field functionaries. The IHT ensures that the knowledge reaching farmers is scientifically sound, modern, and applicable to local conditions, creating a pipeline of trained manpower for the horticulture sector.

By integrating the entire value chain—from seed to market, and crucially, from knowledge to application—MIDH is not just increasing horticulture output; it is cultivating a new generation of trained, prosperous and resilient Indian farmers.

Trainings at IHT: Practical Learning and Innovation in Horticulture

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT), Greater Noida, conducted a series of training programs during the month of October, focusing on practical learning and the latest innovations in horticulture. These programs were designed for farmers, entrepreneurs, gardeners and horticulture enthusiasts to help them upgrade their knowledge and skills in modern cultivation techniques. The trainings covered diverse topics such as mushroom production, landscape and garden maintenance, modern home care, protected cultivation, saffron production, hydroponic herb growing and commercial hydroponics. Each program combined theory with practical sessions to ensure comprehensive learning and hands-on exposure. By organizing both online and offline batches, IHT ensured wider participation and convenience for trainees from different regions.

Mushroom Cultivation

IHT conducted a comprehensive 3-day programme on mushroom cultivation in both online and offline modes, across separate batches to suit different participant groups. Participants were introduced to various mushroom species and their cultivation requirements. The sessions included detailed demonstrations on compost making for button and oyster mushrooms, spawn production technology, pasteurization methods and casing techniques. Participants learned practical techniques for composting, maintaining hygiene, controlling pests and diseases and grading and packing the mushrooms for market. The final day featured an exposure visit to progressive mushroom farms in Sonipat and Mathura, where trainees observed real-time production, packaging, and management practices. The blend of theory and field learning enabled participants — including farmers, entrepreneurs, and extension officers — to gain confidence in starting or upgrading commercial mushroom ventures. The online batches provided interactive theory modules, while the offline sessions offered hands-on practice in the lab and production house, enabling participants to apply what they learn. The dual format ensures accessibility and flexibility so farmers, entrepreneurs and extension officers can gain the skills.



Hands on training on mushroom cultivation techniques

Protected Cultivation -Vegetables

IHT organized a training on protected cultivation of vegetables – Tomato, Capsicum and Seedless Cucumber aimed at farmers and agribusiness professionals seeking to produce high-value vegetables under controlled environments. The course covered greenhouse/low-tunnel structures, climate control, soilless seedling production, crop selection, fertigation, integrated pest management, orderly planting and scheduling and post-harvest handling of vegetables. Practical sessions included setting up a protected structure, nutrient management, monitoring micro-climate (temperature, humidity, light), spacing, crop rotation and marketing aspects. The training stressed on efficient water use and cost-effective systems to enable growers to shift from open-field to protected cultivation. By the end of the training the participants were equipped to understand the protected-system for vegetables with improved productivity and better market returns.



Hands-on training on protected cultivation

Saffron Cultivation

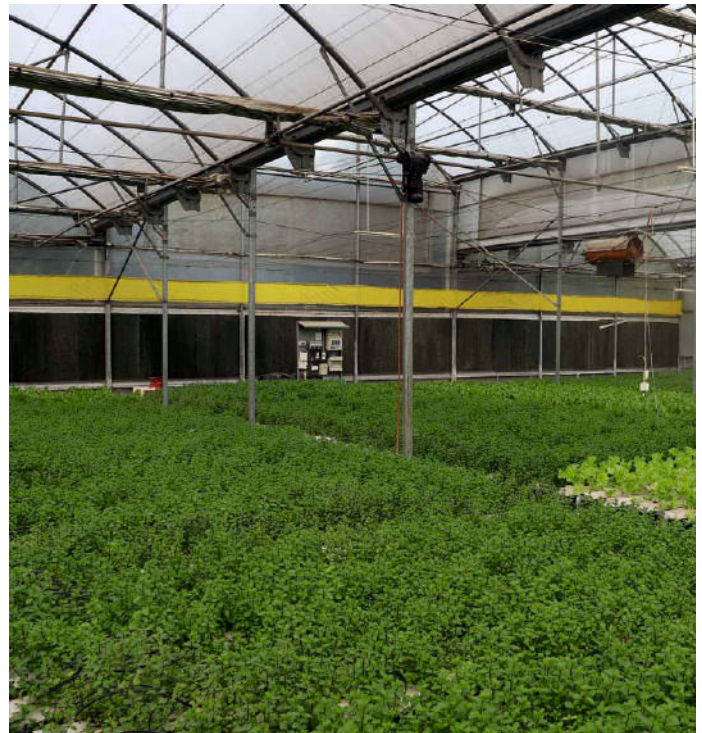
In October, IHT offered a dual-mode (online + offline) training on saffron cultivation, with separate batches to cater to different participants. This specialised course introduced the traditional and modern aspects of growing Saffron (*Crocus sativus*) — from soil and site selection, corm treatment, planting, irrigation, nutrient management, pest and disease control, flowering and harvesting, to post-harvest drying, grading and marketing. The online batches delivered theory modules including global market trends, cost-benefit analysis and entrepreneurial aspects, while the offline sessions provided practical hands-on planting, corm handling, flower harvesting and processing. Trainees thus gained a holistic view of saffron enterprise—from field to market. Graduates left the programme with the confidence to establish or improve saffron cultivation systems suited to Indian conditions, tapping into this high-value crop's market potential.



Hands-on training on saffron cultivation

Hydroponic Herbs Cultivation

IHT organised a 3 days training programme on hydroponic cultivation of herbs, aimed at growers, entrepreneurs and urban agriculture practitioners wanting to grow herbs in soilless systems. The course covered fundamentals of hydroponics, selection of herbs suitable for hydroponic culture, system design, nutrient solution preparation, plant propagation, lighting and climate control (for indoor systems) and harvesting and post-harvest handling of herbs. Participants engaged in hands-on sessions setting up simple hydroponic units, managing the nutrient flow, checking pH/EC and troubleshooting common issues such as root diseases, nutrient imbalances and pests in soilless media. The training emphasised the benefits of hydroponics—water savings, higher planting density, year-round production and clean produce—and how these apply to herbs like basil, mint, coriander etc. By the end, participants were equipped with the knowledge to design, install and operate small-to-medium hydroponic herb units.



Commercial Hydroponic

In October, IHT delivered an intensive 2-week course on commercial hydroponic farming, structured as 1 week of online classroom training followed by 1 week of offline practical sessions. The programme was designed for entrepreneurs, start-ups, agripreneurs and large-scale growers interested in adopting hydroponic systems for commercial crop production. The online component covered system selection (NFT, DWC, vertical beds), nutrient management, lighting and climate control, crop scheduling, business planning, cost and revenue modelling, marketing and certification. The offline week provided hands-on experience: trainees visited hydroponic farms, set up actual units, managed crops under controlled conditions, monitored nutrient solutions, harvested and packed produce and analysed profitability. Attention was given to commercial aspects—investment, energy use, automation, scalability and sustainability. On completion, participants were ready to plan, implement and manage a commercial hydroponic operation with a clear understanding of both technical and business sides of the enterprise.



Hands-on training on Commercial Hydroponic



Landscape & Garden Maintenance

For one full week in October, IHT offered a practical course on landscape and garden maintenance designed for gardeners, estate managers and enthusiasts. The programme covered topics such as design principles, plant selection (trees, shrubs and groundcovers), soil preparation, turf management, pruning, irrigation scheduling, pest-management in gardens and seasonal care. Emphasis was placed on sustainable practices—using native and low-maintenance species, water-efficient irrigation, organic fertilisers—and creating aesthetically pleasing yet functional outdoor spaces. Trainees engaged in hands-on workshops working on actual landscapes, learning how to assess site conditions, plan planting, maintain lawns and manage ornamental beds. The course also introduced upkeep schedules, cost-effective maintenance strategies and basic machinery/tools for garden care. At completion, participants were able to confidently maintain landscapes, troubleshoot common issues and plan regular upkeep for horticultural settings.



Modern Home Care

In a one-day concentrated training session, IHT delivered a “Modern Home Care” course tailored for homeowners, hobby gardeners and domestic green space managers. The session introduced the fundamentals of indoor and patio gardening, container planting, vertical gardens, houseplants, soil and potting mix selection and routine care such as watering, fertilising and pest monitoring. The training also touched on design ideas for creating lush green corners in homes, balconies or terraces using limited space and the use of low-maintenance plants as well as seasonal changes in home landscapes. Participants learned quick practical tips for maintaining healthy plants, diagnosing common problems (yellowing leaves, over-watering, pests) and simple remedies. With this short but focused course, the aim was to empower urban dwellers to cultivate and care for green spaces within their homes and to enhance their living environment with greenery in a modern, efficient manner.

Upcoming Trainings

1. Commercial Hydroponics
2. Orchid Production in Protected Setup
3. Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops
4. Landscaping and Garden Maintenance
5. Saffron Cultivation- online and offline
6. Mushroom Production- Online
7. Commercial Nursery Production – Vegetables
8. Italian Gourmet Herbs



ISO 9001 : 2008

इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ हॉर्टीकल्चर टेक्नोलॉजी Institute of Horticulture Technology

Main Campus: 42A, Knowledge Park III, Greater Noida - 201310, Uttar Pradesh
North East Campus: Mandira, Kamrup - 781127, Assam
Mobile: 8860621160, website: www.iht.edu.in, Email: enquiry@iht.edu.in, training@iht.edu.in