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इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ हॉर्टीकल्चर टेक्नोलॉजी
Institute of Horticulture Technology
Recognised as SIRO by Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India

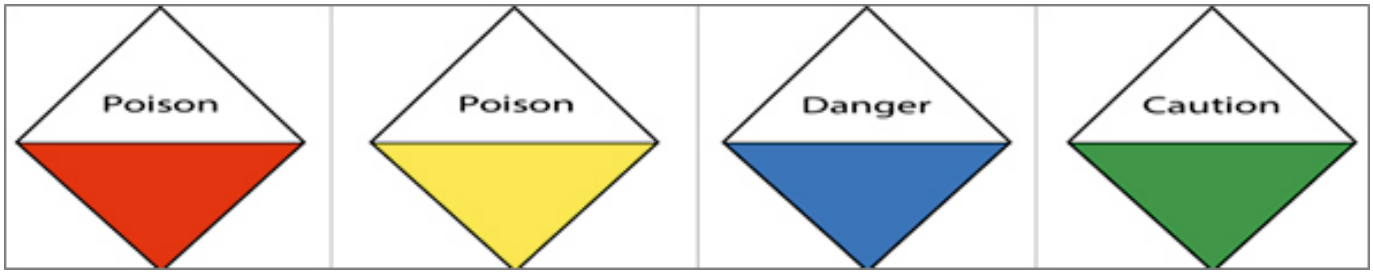
Monthly
Newsletter
January 2026 Volume 9 No.01

Contents

Safe Spraying for Safe Food - Pesticide Safety, Colour Labels & Bharat GAP

Insect pests, diseases, and weeds cause significant yield and quality losses in almost every crop, making plant protection an essential component of horticulture. In recent years, growing public awareness has encouraged the use of botanicals such as neem oil and microbial pesticides. While this shift is positive, chemical pesticides are still widely used by most farmers to manage serious pest problems at the field level. Although much attention is given to pesticide residues on crops and its implications on human health and environment yet the safety of farmers during spraying operations remains largely neglected. Many farmers are unaware of pesticide label colour triangles—red, yellow, blue, and green—and their significance in indicating toxicity and required precautions. In most of the cases, farmers are unaware of importance of the colour-coded pesticide labels and their significance in indicating toxicity and required precautions. As a result, spraying is often carried out without adequate personal protective equipment (PPE), exposing farmers to serious health risks which are avoidable with proper PPE.

Know the Label – Choose the Right Protection



- **Red Triangle (Extremely Toxic):** Full PPE compulsory: gloves, mask, goggles, full clothing and boots
- **Yellow Triangle (Highly Toxic):** Gloves, mask, full-sleeve clothes, covered footwear essential
- **Blue Triangle (Moderately Toxic):** Gloves, mask, and covered clothing mandatory
- **Green Triangle (Slightly Toxic):** Minimum PPE recommended to avoid repeated exposure

Bharat GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) strongly emphasizes safe and responsible use of plant protection chemicals, focusing on farmer safety alongside food and environmental safety. It promotes the use of label-claimed pesticides, recommended doses, proper understanding of colour-coded toxicity labels, and mandatory use of PPE during mixing and spraying. These practices reduce occupational hazards, minimize pesticide risks, and enhance consumer confidence in agricultural produce. Recognizing this critical gap between guidelines and ground-level practices, the Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) conducts hands-on training programmes for farmers from various states, emphasizing pesticide label awareness, colour-triangle interpretation, PPE use, and Bharat GAP-compliant safe spraying practices. The farmers are made aware of the implications of the exposure to the most toxic insecticides and how to protect themselves with the resources which they easily can adopt like full body coverage by clothing, using mask, google and head scarf properly.

Healthy Farmers • Safe Food • Sustainable Horticulture

Newsletter
January 2026 Volume 9 No.01

Republic Day Celebration at IHT

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) celebrated the 77th Republic Day of India on 26 January 2026 at its campus with pride and enthusiasm. The programme commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by Shri Sandeep Sudan, Co-Chairman IHT, followed by the National Anthem, creating a patriotic atmosphere on the campus. After the flag hoisting, Dr. Vijay Koul (Associate Director of IHT), Dr. Jitesh Khatri (Director IIPPT College Greater Noida), and Shri Sanjeev Kulshrestha (Registrar of IHT) shared their views with the gathering. In their addresses, they highlighted the importance of the Indian Constitution, democratic values and the duties of citizens in nation building. Faculty members, staff and trainees participated actively in the celebration. The programme concluded with patriotic reflections and refreshments. The Republic Day celebration strengthened the spirit of unity, discipline and national pride among all participants at IHT.

Within-State Training Programme in Chhattisgarh

During January 2026, the Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) organized Within-State Training Programmes across multiple districts of Chhattisgarh on the theme “Innovative Technologies for Horticulture Crop Production.” The trainings were conducted in Surajpur, Sarangarh, Sakti, Janjgir Champa, Raipur, Raigarh, Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki, Manendragarh, Korea, Khairagarh, Kabirdham and Ambikapur. Each district hosted a five-day training programme, conducted directly at the district level by IHT experts. Around 100 farmers from nearby areas in each district participated, including horticulture growers and progressive farmers. The programme combined classroom sessions with field visits to horticulture farms and progressive farmers’ fields, allowing participants to observe innovative practices and technologies first-hand. The training focused on improving crop productivity, adoption of modern horticultural techniques and strengthening farmers’ practical understanding. Participants appreciated the district-level approach, which made the training more accessible and relevant to local cropping conditions.

Glimpses of Within-State Capacity Building Training for Chhattisgarh Farmer,

Newsletter

January 2026 Volume 9 No.01

IHT Organizes Out-of-State Training and Exposure Visits for Jharkhand Farmers

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) organized an out-of-state training and exposure visit for farmers from Godda and Garhwa districts of Jharkhand. During the programme, farmers visited the IHT Technology Park and a Greenhouse Garden Center in Greater Noida, where they were exposed to protected cultivation, nursery management, and ornamental horticulture practices. The exposure visit also included visits to the MHU Regional Mushroom Research Centre, Murthal and Pratibha Foods (Atrina) Processing Unit, Haryana, providing insights into mushroom cultivation, crop diversification, processing, packaging, and value addition. The programme promoted the adoption of hi-tech, market-oriented, and sustainable horticultural practices to enhance productivity and farm income.

Glimpses of Out-of-State Training and Exposure Visits of Jharkhand Farmers

Central Institute of Horticulture, Nagaland Deputes Farmers from NE States to IHT

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) successfully organized a farmers' exposure visit under the aegis of the Central Institute of Horticulture (CIH), North East, from 19 to 25 January 2026. The programme witnessed active participation of farmers from Mizoram, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh. During the visit, participants were exposed to advanced horticultural practices through field visits to IHT, Greater Noida; Haryana Technology Park; Greenhouse Garden Center; Maharana Pratap Horticulture University (MHU), Haryana; and progressive farms across Haryana. The exposure visit provided hands-on learning in hi-tech horticultural crop production, protected cultivation, nursery raising, mushroom cultivation, and market-oriented farming systems. The programme aimed to motivate farmers to adopt modern, scalable technologies for enhancing productivity, profitability, and sustainable income generation

Glimpses of Out-of-State Exposure Visit for CIH Mizoram, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh Farmers

Newsletter
January 2026 Volume 9 No.01

Capacity Building Trainings in IHT

In January 2026, the Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) conducted a series of capacity-building training programmes in both online and offline modes. These programmes were designed to strengthen practical knowledge and skills in modern horticulture. Participants from different states of India joined the trainings to enhance their understanding of mushroom cultivation, protected cultivation, hydroponics, saffron, orchids, herbs, landscape management and modern home care practices.

Protected Cultivation & Vegetable Management: IHT organized a five-day training on protected cultivation covering vegetable production in polyhouse, greenhouse and nethouse. The programme included climate control, nursery raising, drip and fertigation, soil health and pest management. Practical sessions enabled trainees to understand efficient crop management for higher yield and income.

Mushroom Cultivation: The mushroom cultivation training covered the complete production process, including compost preparation, spawn production, casing, harvesting, hygiene, pest and disease management and marketing. Online batches focused on theory, while offline sessions provided hands-on experience. Participants shared that the training boosted their confidence to start mushroom farming.

Saffron Cultivation: A comprehensive saffron cultivation programme was conducted through online and offline modes. The training covered corm selection, planting, climate and soil requirements, flowering, harvesting and productivity enhancement. Live demonstrations during offline sessions helped participants understand scientific saffron cultivation under Indian conditions.

Commercial Hydroponic Farming: IHT conducted a two-week course on commercial hydroponic farming for entrepreneurs. The online module covered systems, nutrient management, crop planning and cost analysis, while the offline module provided hands-on training on NFT, DWC and vertical systems. Participants gained practical exposure to managing commercial hydroponic units.

Hydroponic Herbs Cultivation: A short course on hydroponic herbs cultivation focused on crops like basil, mint, coriander, oregano and thyme. The training demonstrated simple hydroponic setups suitable terraces and commercial units. Participants were motivated to grow fresh, chemical-free herbs.

Modern Home Care: IHT organized a one-day short course on Modern Home Care, conducted twice during the month. The programme focused on efficient maintenance of home gardens and green spaces, providing simple and practical guidance on plant care, cleanliness and basic gardening practices suitable for urban households.

Landscape & Garden Maintenance: A five-day training programme on Landscape and Garden Maintenance was conducted to strengthen participants' practical gardening skills. The programme covered plant selection, soil preparation, pruning techniques, lawn management, irrigation planning, pest control and proper use of garden tools. Hands-on sessions in the IHT landscape area helped participants gain confidence in maintaining residential, institutional and commercial landscapes effectively.

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

IHT is excited to offer these valuable training programs in the upcoming month to help you enhance your skills and grow your agricultural ventures. For details visit www.iht.edu.in

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