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इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ हॉर्टीकल्चर टेक्नोलॉजी
Institute of Horticulture Technology
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Newsletter
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Contents

Tanzanian Delegation visit IHT for Training youth and Farmers

A delegation from Tanzania visited the Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT), Greater Noida, India, on 20 April 2026 as part of a capacity building and exposure programme designed for youth and progressive farmers of their country. The visit aimed at providing technical knowledge and promoting the exchange of best practices in modern horticulture to the youth and progressive farmers from Tanzania with a focus on protected cultivation, nursery management, precision farming, and sustainable production systems. Notably, the institute has previously conducted similar training programmes for trainees from several African countries, reflecting its growing role in international capacity building in horticulture.

During the programme, the delegation visited the Technology Park of the institute, where they were apprised of various hi-tech horticultural practices being adopted and showcased at the centre. They interacted with experts and faculty members of IHT to gain practical insights into advanced cultivation techniques, quality planting material production, efficient resource management, post-harvest handling, and value addition. The proposed exposure visit of the trainees is expected to enhance the technical capacity of Tanzanian youth and farmers, supporting the adoption of improved technologies for increased productivity, income generation, and sustainable agricultural development.

Delegation from Tanzania Interacting with Experts of IHT in Technology Park of IHT, Greater Noida,

April 2026 proved to be another impactful month for the Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT), Greater Noida, as it successfully conducted a series of high-deman training programmes across diverse domains of modern horticulture. These programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from aspiring entrepreneurs, progressive farmers, students, urban gardeners and agri-professionals from different parts of the country. With a strong focus on practical learning, technology adoption and income generation, IHT continues to empower individuals by bridging the gap between traditional farming practices and advanced, sustainable horticultural techniques.

Commercial Hydroponics Training

The two-week intensive training programme on Commercial Hydroponics conducted in April 2026 emerged as one of IHT's flagship capacity-building initiatives, designed to equip participants with both technical expertise and business-oriented insights into soilless cultivation. The programme commenced with an interactive orientation, introducing participants to the fundamentals of hydroponics, food safety and the growing need for alternative crop production systems. Trainees were then exposed to a wide range of hydroponic systems, including NFT, vertical farming structures and protected hydroponic cultivation. A strong emphasis was placed on nursery planning and management, where participants learned scientific crop planning, seed selection, growing media preparation and staggered production techniques to ensure continuous harvest cycles. The sessions on plant nutrition management provided in-depth understanding of critical parameters such as pH, EC, temperature and nutrient balance, enabling trainees to optimize plant growth under controlled conditions. Advanced modules covered greenhouse design, climate control (temperature, humidity, CO_2, light and airflow) and Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA), giving participants real-time insights into modern production systems.

Hand on training session for the trainees for hydroponic leafy greens production and nursery production

Specialized session on vine crops, salad crops and herbs under hydroponic systems was also delivered, along with detailed sessions on physiological disorders and their management. The programme further included hydroponic irrigation and fertigation systems, covering micro-irrigation components, nutrient delivery systems and efficient resource utilization. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices were also emphasized to ensure safe and residue-free production. Participants described the training as "highly practical and business-oriented." Many trainees expressed confidence in establishing their own hydroponic units and appreciated the clarity and depth of the sessions.

Home Gardening Training – Online

The one-day online training on Home Gardening catered to urban residents, beginners and hobby growers interested in growing their own food in limited spaces. Participants were trained in container gardening, soil mix preparation, seed selection, watering practices and organic pest management. The programme focused on simple, low-cost and easily adoptable techniques suitable for balconies, terraces and small spaces. Participants found the training highly inspiring and practical, with many starting their own home gardens immediately after the session.

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Mushroom Production Training

The 4-day offline and 3 days online training on Mushroom Production Technology was designed as a comprehensive, hands-on programme covering the complete lifecycle of mushroom cultivation. The training began with an overview of the current scenario and future prospects of mushroom cultivation in India, highlighting its potential as a low-investment, high-return enterprise. Participants were trained in compost preparation techniques for button mushrooms, which is a critical step in ensuring successful production. Detailed sessions on spawn production technology familiarized trainees with the required infrastructure, equipment and procedures. Modern cultivation practices were discussed with a focus on environmental control—temperature, humidity and ventilation—to enhance yield and quality. An important highlight of the training was the session on innovative irrigation techniques in mushroom production, emphasizing efficient moisture management and improved crop health. The programme also included oyster mushroom production technology, enabling participants to start cultivation with minimal investment. Pest and disease management strategies, with a focus on minimizing pesticide residue, were thoroughly covered. A field visit to a progressive farmer's mushroom unit provided real-time exposure to commercial-scale production systems. Participants appreciated the practical approach and hands-on exposure. Many trainees expressed their readiness to initiate small-scale mushroom enterprises immediately after the training.

Exposure visit of the traines to progressive farmer's mushroom unit in Noida

Saffron Production Technology

The 3-day training programme on Saffron Production Technology introduced participants to one of the most high-value and emerging agri-entrepreneurial opportunities. The programme began with an overview of saffron's global significance, market demand and value chain, highlighting the demand-supply gap and scope for new entrants. A key focus area was hydroponic and protected cultivation of saffron, enabling participants to overcome traditional geographical and climatic limitations. Participants were trained in corm selection, pre-treatment, planting techniques, spacing and crop monitoring for optimum yield. Sessions on nutrient management, fertigation scheduling and water management provided scientific insights into enhancing productivity and quality. Hands-on training covered soilless media preparation (cocopeat, perlite, vermiculite) and sterilization techniques. The programme also addressed pest and disease management, climate control, indoor cultivation strategies and post-harvest processes such as harvesting, drying, grading, packaging and storage. An entrepreneurship-focused session guided participants on government support schemes and business opportunities in saffron cultivation. Participants termed the training as a "rare and high-value learning experience." Many showed keen interest in starting indoor saffron cultivation ventures.

Hands on training session on media preparation for saffron and learning about corms dormancy

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Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops

The 5-day training programme on Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops provided a comprehensive understanding of polyhouse-based vegetable production systems. The training began with soil health management, including soil structure, organic matter, sampling and analysis techniques. Sessions on greenhouse technology covered design, components, maintenance and climate control systems under Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA). A visit to the Technology Park allowed participants to observe different polyhouse structures and real-time crop production systems. The programme included detailed training on nursery management, covering open vs protected nursery, plug nursery production, plant protection and hardening techniques. Micro-irrigation and fertigation modules focused on system components, filters, emitters, EC, pH and nutrient management. Crop-specific production technologies for tomato, capsicum and cucumber under protected conditions were also covered. Extensive hands-on sessions included drip system layout, filtration maintenance, mulching, bed preparation, pruning and soil sterilization techniques. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices were emphasized for sustainable and safe crop production.

Jharkhand Farmers Exploring Hi-Tech Horticulture Technologies

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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