



Contents

- Capacity Building in Modern Horticulture: Aligning with the Ministry of Agriculture's Vision
- Capacity Building Trainings
- Overall Participant Feedback

Capacity Building in Modern Horticulture: Aligning with the Ministry of Agriculture's Vision

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare continues to prioritize the dissemination of modern horticultural technologies to enhance farm productivity and farmer income. Key national initiatives such as the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and the Cluster Development Programme (CDP) provide the robust policy framework for this capacity-building endeavour. This month's cover story highlights how the Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT), recognized as SIRO by Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, is aligned with ministry's goals through specialized skill development programs. IHT complements these national efforts with its comprehensive, residential training programmes, meticulously designed to bridge the gap between policy intent and farmer capability.

IHT's training portfolio encompasses a comprehensive spectrum of modern horticultural practices, thoughtfully organized to address every stage of the crop value chain. Under production technologies, the institute offers advanced training in vegetable and fruit crop cultivation, covering polyhouse farming, high-density planting systems and soilless plug-type nursery production for disease-free planting material. Complementing these are specialized modules on protected and precision cultivation, including hydroponic production of leafy vegetables and herbs, along with the unique offering of protected saffron cultivation – a high-value, climate-resilient crop.

In the domain of sustainable agriculture, IHT provides comprehensive training in natural farming, organic certification protocols and integrated nutrient management, empowering farmers to adopt environmentally responsible practices. The institute also addresses post-harvest management through hands-on modules on value addition and loss reduction technologies, enabling better market realization for farm produce. Mushroom cultivation forms another key vertical, with end-to-end training covering spawn production, cultivation techniques and marketing strategies. Recognizing the value of experiential learning, IHT organizes out-of-the-State training-cum-exposure visits for farmers to observe best practices across regions.

The institute's School of Speed Breeding (SoSB) is dedicated to developing protocols for faster development of climate-resilient crop varieties – a critical priority in the face of climate variability.

Through its specialized curriculum and hands-on approach, IHT is empowering farmers and contributing to the Ministry's broader goal of making Indian horticulture more productive, sustainable and globally competitive. The institute remains committed to equipping the farming community with the skills needed to meet the challenges of a changing agricultural landscape.

Capacity Building Training

Commercial Hydroponics

IHT successfully organized its Commercial Hydroponics Training Programme during June 2026. The programme was attended by entrepreneurs and working professionals from different states of India. The training included both classroom sessions and practical demonstrations at the institution main campus and IHT's Technology Park. Participants learned about different hydroponic systems, seedling production, nutrient solution preparation, pH and EC management, greenhouse management, irrigation and fertigation, crop care and pest management. Practical sessions helped participants understand how vegetables can be grown without soil using less water and better management. The training also explained how hydroponics can be started as a profitable business.



Hands-on training on hydroponic crop production

Mushroom Cultivation Training

IHT organized Mushroom Cultivation Training Programme in both online and offline modes so that participants from different locations could join the programme. Those who could not travel attended the online sessions, while offline participants received practical training at the campus. The programme covered compost preparation, spawn production, button and oyster mushroom cultivation, temperature and humidity management, harvesting, packing and marketing. Participants also learned how mushroom cultivation can become an additional source of income with low investment. The practical sessions helped them understand every step of mushroom production.



Hands-on training on Mushroom Production

Orchid Cultivation Training

IHT conducted an Online Orchid Cultivation Training Programme for flower growers and gardening enthusiasts. The programme introduced participants to the commercial cultivation of orchids. Experts explained different orchid varieties, growing conditions, potting media, watering methods, nutrient management, greenhouse production and pest management. Participants also learned about flower harvesting, post-harvest care and market opportunities. The training encouraged growers to adopt scientific methods for producing healthy and high-quality orchid plants.

Home Care Gardening

IHT organized two Home Care Gardening Programmes during June to encourage people to grow fresh vegetables, herbs and flowers at home. The programme was especially useful for homemakers, gardening enthusiasts, beginners and anyone who has an interest in gardening but does not know the correct methods to start and maintain a healthy garden.

Participants learned how to prepare pots, choose the right soil mixture, grow vegetables in containers, prepare organic compost, water plants properly and manage common pests using simple and eco-friendly methods. The training showed that even a small balcony, terrace, or backyard can be turned into a beautiful and productive garden. By the end of the programme, participants gained the confidence to start their own home garden and enjoy fresh, healthy produce throughout the year.

Landscape and Garden Maintenance

The Landscape and Garden Maintenance Programme was conducted online for gardeners, students and landscape professionals. The sessions covered lawn care, ornamental plants, pruning, watering, fertilizer application, seasonal maintenance and garden planning. Participants learned how to keep gardens healthy, attractive and well maintained throughout the year using simple and scientific methods.

Saffron Cultivation Training

The Landscape and Garden Maintenance Programme was conducted online for gardeners, students and landscape professionals. The sessions covered lawn care, ornamental plants, pruning, watering, fertilizer application, seasonal maintenance and garden planning. Participants learned how to keep gardens healthy, attractive and well maintained throughout the year using simple and scientific methods.



Practical session on saffron cultivation and demonstration of saffron growing techniques

Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops

The Protected Cultivation Training Programme attracted participants from different parts of India. The programme focused on growing vegetables inside polyhouse and greenhouses. Participants learned about nursery production, greenhouse management, drip irrigation, fertigation, mulching, pruning, soil health, pest management and the cultivation of tomato, cucumber and capsicum. Practical demonstrations helped participants understand modern farming methods that improve crop quality and increase production.



Hands-on training inside the polyhouse

Microgreens Farming

IHT also organized a Microgreens Farming Training Programme to introduce participants to this fast-growing farming business. The programme covered seed selection, tray preparation, growing media, irrigation, harvesting, packaging and marketing. Participants learned how microgreens can be produced in a small space within a short time and sold to restaurants, supermarkets and health-conscious consumers. The training encouraged young entrepreneurs and urban growers to start microgreens production.



Participants learning tray preparation techniques



Overall Participant Feedback

Participants from different states highly appreciated the well-planned training programmes conducted by IHT. They found the sessions practical, informative, and easy to understand. The expert guidance, hands-on demonstrations, and modern training facilities helped them gain confidence in adopting new horticultural technologies and applying them successfully in their own farms and businesses. Some feedbacks from Google are attached below:



Aashish Ranjan
5 reviews · 5 photos

★★★★★ a month ago

Attended the "Commercial Hydroponics" course. The duration was 2 weeks. First week it's all theory part and the second for practicals and in hand experience. The course seems to provide one a basic structure about hydroponics. Anyone who's interested and want to know about it can definitely attend the course, it clears the doubts and confusion regarding the same. Ultimately the main aspects will be clear when one jumps into it. Faculties were good. Very patient and informative provided with all the theories and technicalities. Well, it clearly seemed overpriced to me. Fooding and lodging facilities are available on demand, choice for self.



CHANDRA SEKHAR SANGA 19M5CGPB120

1 review

★★★★★ 6 days ago NEW

I trained here for mushroom production training, my knowledge in mushroom production was 50 percent but here I learnt lot more that I am ready to do my production after setup plan.



Hemant Chitlangia
4 reviews

★★★★★ 4 days ago NEW

We did a 3 day microgreen course. Very informative. Excellent faculty. This will help us to start our agriprenure journey.



Ashish Gamit
3 reviews

★★★★★ a month ago

Being an agriculture student, I already had some knowledge of protected cultivation, but this 5-day training course in Protected cultivation, greatly expanded my understanding of the subject. I learned about advanced cultivation practices, greenhouse technologies, and crop management techniques. The training was well-organized, practical, and highly informative. It has increased my confidence and will help me in my future studies and career.

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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