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IHT Promotes Modern Horticulture through Capacity Building Programmes

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT), Greater Noida, continued its commitment towards promoting modern horticultural technologies, practical skill development, and entrepreneurship through a series of specialized training programmes during September 2026. The month witnessed active participation in programmes on Commercial Hydroponics, Mushroom Production, Saffron Cultivation, Microgreens Farming, and Home Gardening. Along with professional training programmes, IHT also strengthened its educational outreach by hosting school students and introducing them to modern and technology-driven approaches in horticulture. The training programmes were designed to provide a balanced combination of theoretical knowledge, expert interaction, practical demonstrations, and hands-on learning. Through these initiatives, participants were encouraged to understand modern production technologies and explore opportunities for sustainable farming and horticulture-based entrepreneurship.

Commercial Hydroponics – Integrating Technology with Sustainable Crop Production

The Commercial Hydroponics programme was conducted as a two-week training programme in online and offline modes. The programme provided participants with comprehensive knowledge of hydroponic crop production, beginning with the fundamentals of soilless cultivation and different hydroponic systems. Sessions covered crop and nursery planning, greenhouse technology, irrigation and fertigation, nutrient management, EC and pH monitoring, climate control, crop management, and integrated pest management. The practical component of the programme provided participants with direct exposure to hydroponic production systems and their day-to-day management. Trainees gained an understanding of nutrient solution preparation, irrigation management, crop monitoring, and environmental control. The programme also highlighted the commercial potential of hydroponics and helped participants understand the technical requirements involved in establishing and managing a commercial hydroponic unit.



Trainees interaction with experts on Hydroponic Crop Production Technology

Mushroom Production Technology – From Production Practices to Commercial Cultivation

The Mushroom Production Technology programme was organized in both online and offline modes, with a three-day online batch and a four-day offline batch. The training focused on scientific and commercial approaches to mushroom production and covered important topics such as substrate and compost preparation, pasteurization, spawn production, environmental management, irrigation, production practices, and integrated pest management. The offline programme provided participants with practical exposure to mushroom production facilities and demonstrations of important production operations. Trainees gained a better understanding of the complete mushroom production cycle and the environmental and management conditions required for maintaining quality and productivity. The programme also highlighted the potential of mushroom cultivation as a profitable enterprise requiring comparatively limited land and offering opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.



Hands on training on compost preparation and mushroom production practices

Saffron Production Technology –High-Value Crop Cultivation

The Saffron Production Technology programme was conducted through both online and offline batches, providing participants with an understanding of modern and controlled approaches to saffron production. The training covered selection and preparation of quality saffron corms, dormancy management, soilless media, planting techniques, irrigation and fertigation, environmental management, indoor cultivation, harvesting, and post-harvest handling. The offline sessions provided practical exposure to media preparation and cultivation practices, enabling participants to understand how scientific management can be applied to saffron production. Discussions on indoor and controlled-environment cultivation also highlighted the potential for producing saffron beyond traditional growing regions. The programme encouraged participants to explore saffron cultivation as a high-value crop and a potential avenue for entrepreneurship.



Hands on training saffron corms production & planting methods

Microgreens Production –Opportunity for Urban Agriculture

Two batches of the Microgreens Production programme were conducted during the month, including a two-day batch for online training and a three-day batch for in campus training. The training introduced participants to the complete production cycle of microgreens, from crop and seed selection to harvesting and marketing. Participants learned about seed preparation, tray preparation, growing conditions, irrigation, crop management, harvesting, hygiene, packaging, storage, and marketing. Special emphasis was placed on the advantages of microgreens as a short-duration crop requiring limited space and offering opportunities for urban farming and small-scale entrepreneurship. The practical orientation of the programme enabled participants to understand how microgreens can be produced efficiently for household consumption as well as commercial markets.



Hands on training on micro greens harvesting

Home Care– Encouraging Gardening at Home

A one-day Home Care Batch was also organized to promote practical gardening practices that can easily be adopted in homes and small spaces. The programme introduced participants to kitchen gardening, terrace and balcony gardening, selection of suitable plants and containers, growing media, irrigation and nutrient management, and routine plant care. Participants also received guidance on basic pest and disease management and maintaining healthy plants under home conditions. The programme encouraged participants to make productive use of available spaces and develop simple, sustainable, and enjoyable home gardening practices.

The diverse training programmes conducted during the month reflect IHT's continued focus on practical, technology-oriented, and employment-focused horticultural education. The combination of online learning, offline practical sessions, demonstrations, and expert interaction enabled participants to gain both theoretical understanding and practical confidence. Through its continued training and outreach activities, IHT is contributing towards the development of skilled human resources and encouraging the adoption of innovative, sustainable, and commercially viable horticultural technologies. The enthusiastic participation and positive response to these programmes demonstrate the growing interest in modern horticulture and the increasing opportunities available in technology-driven agriculture.



Educational Outreach: School Students Visit IHT

As part of its educational and outreach initiatives, IHT hosted a school visit for Class IX students of The Wisdom Tree School. The visit provided young learners with an opportunity to observe and understand modern horticultural technologies and their practical applications. During the visit, students were introduced to innovative approaches to crop production and modern farming systems. The exposure helped students understand how technology, science, and agriculture are coming together to address challenges related to food production, resource conservation, and sustainability. Such educational visits play an important role in creating awareness among young students about modern agriculture, sustainable horticulture, new-age farming technologies, and future career opportunities in the agricultural sector. The visit also provided an interactive learning experience beyond the classroom and encouraged students to develop greater interest in plants, farming, and environmental sustainability.



Glimpses of Wisdom Trees School Children's visit to Technology Park

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