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PM-KISAN SCHEME – More than 2 crore Small/Marginal Farmers have benefited so far

With a view to augment the income of farmers by providing income support to all Small and Marginal landholder farmers' families across the country and to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government had started a new Scheme on 01.02.2019 namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The Scheme aims to provide a payment of Rs.6000/- per year for the farmers' families with cultivable land holding upto 2 hectare, subject to certain exclusions.

This Rs.6000/- would be released in three 4-monthly installments of Rs.2000/- over the year. The scheme is effective from 1.12.2018. The amount is being released by the Central Government directly into the bank accounts of the eligible farmers under Direct Benefit Transfer mode for a period of 4 months ending on 31.03.2019. Around 12.5 crore farmers across the country will be benefitted from this Scheme. Under the scheme, the responsibility of identification of the eligible beneficiaries' rests with the State Government.

The Scheme was formally launched at national level by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the 24th February, 2019 at Gorakhpur, UP. The first installment for the first 4-month period, financial benefits of Rs.2000/- were released to about 1.01 crore farmers in the first trench entailing fund release of Rs. 2021 crore.

The scheme is being implemented efficiently and the first installment are released expeditiously. Till date, the benefit has already been released to more than 2 crore small and marginal farmers. It is a continuous scheme and the aim of the Department is to cover all eligible small and marginal farmer families.

TRAININGS IN IHT

Jharkhand farmers training

Jharkhand farmers from Saraikela and West Singhbhum districts participated in five days training program on “Hi-Tech Horticultural Crop Production Technologies”. The highlight of the group was that it has almost equal number of males and females. The trainees were active farmers all having their land and in practice of growing different crops at their places. The training was conducted with the aim to link farming community of Jharkhand with the advanced agro technology showcased in Institute's technology park.

In house techno savvy faculty of IHT and eminent scientists from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi delivered lectures and provided hands on trainings to the farmers during the training. The program was divided into three strategic module viz. interactive lectures, exposure visit and hands on training. Interactive lectures on the advantages, significance and steps needed for the production of quality planting material by plug type soilless nursery technology was delivered by Nursery Expert of IHT followed by the hands on training and exposure visit to commercial plug type nursery production facility. Similarly, other sessions on Micro irrigation, Greenhouse management, Integrated pest management were also held to demonstrate the problems farmers usually face in during crop cultivation. The farmers were explained in detail about the pesticide handling procedures and the meaning of toxicity triangles depicted on every pesticide container. The farmers took keen interest in the deliberations and were of the view that personal protection safety is usually ignored by them but after this interactive lecture they could know about the protection measures which are within their reach and can be taken to safeguard them.



Interactive lecture session



IHT expert explaining utilization of NVPH to farmers



Women Farmers practising soil-less plug type nursery preparation under the guidance of IHT expert

Training of prospective growers and entrepreneurs

Hydroponics, an alternate growing system basically, is “growing plants in a nutrient solution”. Nowadays, it is a growing area of commercial food production and also is used for home food production by hobbyists. Participants in this training program, learnt about the state-of-the-art techniques for producing food in a controlled environment in soilless setting with precise dosage of nutrient.

This month participants from Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Rajasthan has participated in training program entitled “Commercial Hydroponic”. In addition to these topics, and during the different lectures and visits there was a open discussion for queries from the participants. Different topics were undertaken during the course such as, greenhouse design and climate management, plant nutrition, nursery management, water quality, salinity and production technology, marketing etc. covered as How a Plant Grows, Hydroponic Systems, Nutrition & Nutrition management, Plant Culture, Hydroponic Vegetable Production, Hydroponic Cut Flower Production, Solid Media vs Nutrient Film and Greenhouse Operation & Management.

Training was very informative, knowledge based and very practical. My concept regarding the subject is clear now

*- Mr. Ashwin Ramesh Sawant, Mumbai
Trainee, Commercial Hydroponic*



The Hydroponic training was very good and informative. The concept of hydroponic was explained very well.

*- Mr. Lav Darda
Trainee, Commercial Hydroponic*



IHT expert explaining maturity indices for harvesting



Participants practising harvesting of lettuce



Protected Cultivation of Cut Flowers and Vegetables

Government of India has identified floriculture as a sunrise industry. It has tremendous scope of export. Owing to steady increase in demand of flower, entrepreneurs are taking interest in growing and exporting flowers. Trainees from various states has participated 5 days training course on “Production technology of cut flowers in greenhouse”.

Another group of trainees from different northern and southern states showed interest in adopting commercial ventures through production of polyhouse grown vegetables. Hence, they opted for 5 days training programme on “Production technology of greenhouse vegetable crops”. This diversity of participants allowed a better room for discussion as they were from different working backgrounds and belong to the different agro climatic zones.

FUTURE PROGRAMMES

Sr. No.	Courses	Duration
1	Production Technology of Greenhouse Vegetable Crops	5 Days
2	Production Technology of Cut Flower in Greenhouse	5 Days
3	Commercial Hydroponics	3 Days
4	Production Technology of Greenhouse Vegetable Crops - Supervisor Level 1	1 Month



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