इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ हॉर्टीकल्चर टेक्नोलॉजी
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Institute of Horticulture Technology Opens Doors for Vast and Varied Employment Opportunities in Horticulture Sector

One of the biggest challenges facing the horticulture sector is inadequate skilled manpower. The need for sufficiently skilled, permanent and seasonal human resource on farm is important to ensure business viability, productivity and reducing pressure on existing staff. Across the countries, fruit and vegetable growers, pack houses, exporters and marketing companies are all looking for ways to raise the profile of horticulture and change public perceptions about what these jobs entail.

There has been a complete transformation of Horticulture sector over the last few decades from simple art and science of growing horticultural crops to convergence of numerous technologies and management practices. Career opportunities now available in horticulture are vast and varied than those were available at the start of millennium. Modern farms and orchards in India and other countries are now changing over to on efficient production systems those are sustainable, profitable and leave least carbon foot prints behind. This has created the need for an educated, highly skilled, tech-savvy workforce.

There are plenty of opportunities in horticulture sector for youth to prove themselves, take on areas of responsibility and quickly rise through the ranks of any branch of the fresh produce industry as there are plenty of opportunities waiting for skilled manpower in Horticulture in fruit, vegetables, flouriculture farms or a greenhouse house facility. Employment opportunities exist in sales, post- harvest management, processing, agriculture chemical industries and extension.

Keeping above in view, Institute of Horticulture Technology in collaboration with public sector Central and State Agricultural Universities is launching a number of specialized diploma and post graduate diploma courses on different aspects of horticulture of two and one year duration respectively. A great value is added to these diploma programs due to their being jointly certified by public sector universities that would open up employment and career advancement opportunities both in public and private sector.

Students trained in these courses will have ample opportunity for employment in different areas depending upon their expertize like Large Horticulture Farms, Protected Cultivation Units, Outdoor Horticultural Crop Production, Economic Management of Inputs, Seed Production, Seed Industry, Biotech Labs, Fertilizer Industries, Micro Irrigation industries, Pesticide Industries, Quality Control etc.

TRAINING PROGRAMS UNDER MIDH

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering horticultural crops. Under MIDH, Government of India (GOI) contributes 60%, of total outlay for developmental programmes, 40% share is contributed by State Governments. The main objective behind this scheme is to enhance horticulture production, augment farmers' income and strengthen nutritional security.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) deputed farmers and officers at IHT main campus. Farmers form different districts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand participated in this training program entitled "Modern Horticultural Production Technologies" and "Hi-Tech Horticultural Crop Production Technologies". During training farmers were explained standard operating procedures to be adopted during plug-type nursery raising, so that healthy and disease free seedlings can be achieved. Greenhouse development and its proper utilization attracted the participant most as this session helped them to mitigate the challenges they are facing everyday during crop production. Participants were taken to Technology Park. It was good exposure for the farmers as they could see the improvements in horticultural sector and farmers friendly modern technologies for the betterment of horticultural quality crop production.

Few Glimpses of Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand Farmers Training Programs

TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Mushroom Cultivation: Training programme on “Mushroom Cultivation” was organized by Institute of Horticulture Technology in February. The objective of the training programme was to impart hands on training on entrepreneurship development. Participants from Uttar Pradesh and Delhi participated in the training programme. The major components of the course were interactive lectures on structure for mushroom cultivation and cultivation practices for button mushroom and hands on training on preparation of compost for mushroom cultivation, spawn production, methods of seed/spawn sowing in grow bags, casing and methods of casing preparation, methods of irrigation for mushroom cultivation and application of fungicide /insecticide.

Trainees during hands on training in Button Mushroom Production Unit at IHT, Greater Noida

Home Gardener and Landscape Gardening

Knowledge is only part of what makes a landscape designer exceptional. You also need a flair for design, a passion for gardens and a practical touch (including some management and business abilities). Landscape Gardening course works hard at developing all of these capabilities, as much as any course can; and provides interaction with landscape professionals. Training program for entrepreneurs/students on “Home Gardening” and “Landscape Gardening” was conducted in February. A gardener is responsible for maintaining lawns, trees, shrubs, ground covers; he needs to be aware of the soil and nutrition requirements of plants, pests and diseases and their control and drainage. Gardeners also need to acquire skills in grafting, pruning, weeding and harvesting of flowers, fruits and vegetables.

Hands on Training session for the trainees in Gardening Practices

OUTSIDE STATE TECHNICAL EXPOSURE VISITS

IHT organized exposure visits for the farmers and accompanying officers from different districts of Bihar and Odisha in Shimla, Nashik and Chhattisgarh under National Horticulture Mission in this month. The visit was organized for provide an opportunity to the farmers to interact with eminent horticulture scientists and progressive farmers for latest technologies and practices carried in cultivation of horticultural crops. The farmers opined that the visit was very useful and they were learned about various advanced technologies for solving the problems related to crop production.

Farmers of Odisha during the visit of Chhattisgarh have showed PFDC, IGKV, Tissue Culture Lab in IGKV, Chawda Bagh Farm and Automated Seedling Production Unit Bana in Raipur. IHT also organized exposure visits cum training for the farmers and accompanying officers of different districts of Bihar in this month in Nashik Maharashtra. The exposure visit was focused upon the knowledge of fruit and vegetable cultivation and utilization. It was good exposure for the farmers as they could see the improvements in horticultural sector and farmers friendly modern technologies for the betterment of horticultural quality crop production. In exposure visit of Himachal Pradesh officers of Odisha visited to DMR Solan, Dr. Y.S. Parmar University Floriculture and Vegetable Department and CPRI, Shimla in Himachal Pradesh.

Farmers being explained different technologies in practice in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh; Nashik, Maharashtra; and Chhattisgarh during out of state exposure visits

Upcoming Trainings in March, 2020

Date	Course Code	Type of Course	Topic	Duration
3rd	IHT-102	Supervisor Level-2	Production Technology of Greenhouse Vegetable Crops	6 Months
	IHT-508	Exploratory Course	Mushroom Production Technology	5 Days
10th	IHT-302	Standard Course	Production Technology of Cut Flowers in Greenhouse	5 Days
	IHT-301	Startup Course	Plug Nursery Production - Flowers and Ornamentals	3 Days
17th	IHT-504	Special Course	Commercial Hydroponics	3 Days
	IHT-304	Standard Course	Urban Landscaping	5 Days
24th	IHT-508	Exploratory Course	Mushroom Production Technology	5 Days
	IHT-504	Special Course	Commercial Hydroponics	3 Days

Customized courses also offered on demand

Latest News- 2020-21 Budget Highlights

More than Rs 2.83 lakh crore would be spent on Agriculture, Rural Development, Irrigation and allied activities as farmers and rural poor continue to remain the key focus of the Government. Reiterating the commitment of doubling farmers' income by 2022, Government has already provided resilience for 6.11 crore farmers insured under PM Fasal Bima Yojana. Agriculture credit target for the 2020-21 has been set at Rs 15 lakh crore. All eligible beneficiaries of PM-KISAN will be covered under the KCC scheme. Moreover, comprehensive measures for one hundred water stressed districts, proposal to expand PM-KUSUM to provide 20 lakh farmers for setting up stand-alone solar pumps and for another 15 lakh farmers to solarise their grid-connected pump sets, setting up of efficient warehouses at the block level and in Horticulture sector with focus on "one product one district" for better marketing and export are some of the steps in that direction.

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