

Tour Report of Horticulture Commissioner on his visit to Dehradun (Uttarakhand) during 1st - 3rd September, 2010

Visited Dehradun (Uttarakhand) and reviewed the progress of implementation of various programmes under HMNEH in the State.

1st September, 2010 (First day)

Chaired a meeting with Departmental officers / Field Level Staffs at Government Garden in Dehradun and reviewed the on-going activities.

During my last visit, the State was advised to initiate a number of activities that are basic to overall development of horticulture in the State. They were (i) Establish nucleus mother scion blocks to produce quality planting material, (ii) Maximize productivity of land through HDP and canopy management, (iii) Enhance productivity of labour through effective tools and implements, (iv) Promotion of protected cultivation, (v) Strengthen PHM System, (vi) Display of improved production technologies such as high density planting, canopy management, rejuvenation, wedge method of grafting utilizing polycap, drip/jet sprinkler, mulching, protected cultivation, etc. at the Government farms in the State for the benefit of local farmers, (vii) Display on a flexi chart the sequential steps of improved production technology.

2nd September, 2010 (Second day)

Addressed a meeting at KVK, Dhakrani, where officers of KVK besides local farmers were present. After that, interactive discussions and practical demonstration were organized at State Government Garden, Dhakrani covering the following components:

- (i) Technology for rapid multiplication of planting material using polyethylene cap for early sprouts and higher success rate of

grafts throughout the year both in poly houses as well as in open field conditions.

- (ii) Technology for getting maximum scion shoots for mass multiplication of focused crops.
- (iii) Scientific layout for new orchard establishment with adoption of tree training strategies.

After detailed discussions / demonstration, suggested targets for production of about 50,000 mango, 25,000 litchi and 25000 guava plants at Dhakrani farm for distribution among the farmers.

Also visited farmers' fields at Vikasnagar, Telpura and Thano where technologies for orchard management were explained right from initial stage of planting. Issues raised by farmers covering quality planting material, canopy management, rejuvenation, pest and diseases management of fruits and vegetables and cultivation of flowers in poly house / net house were fully resolved.

3rd September, 2010 (Third day)

A meeting with State Officers was organized at Dheradun where Secretary (Horticulture), Director (Horticulture) and other technical officers / staff of Horticulture Department were present. In this meeting, the physical / financial programmes (2010-11) of State Government were critically reviewed. The Mission Director was advised suitably, wherever necessary. The progress of some of the important activities are as under:

1. 1552 units of greenhouses ranging from 100-500 sqm are proposed to be established in different locations of the State. Selection of beneficiaries is over. The establishment of

greenhouses would help farmers to grow off season vegetables besides cultivation of flowers.

2. Scion blocks of improved and recommended varieties of focused fruit crops is being established for mass production of quality planting material as per the details given below:

S.no	Location	Fruit crops
1.	Ranikhet	Apple, Pear
2.	Kashipur	Mango
3.	Krishu	Apple, Pear, Apricot
4.	Dhakrani	Mango, Litchi, Guava
5.	Sikandarpur	Guava
6.	Dehradun	Litchi, Citrus, Mango
7.	Madra	Apple, Peach, Plum Pear
8.	Dunagiri	Peach, Plum

3. High Density Planting and canopy management of important fruit crops are also being established as per the details given below:

Fruit crops	Area (ha.)
Mango	450
Litchi	255
Apple	519
Guava	288
Aonla	175
Citrus	223
Pomegranate	50

4. So far 575 application of beneficiaries from different locations have been received for adoption of mechanization in horticulture.

5. Seedling of rootstocks are being raised in polythene bags for grafting operations.
6. All the suggested improved technologies have been displayed at government garden in Dehradun and the same is being replicated in each and every government garden in the State for mass awareness among the farming community.

Suggestions

- Formation of cluster or association of farmers / growers to market their produce.
- Small farmers have logistic problems, hence, require government support in the form of creating a platform, infrastructure and exposures.
- Establishing market linkages for small farmers to get better price of their produce.