

SKUAST Jammu organized awareness programme on Beekeeping as a component for doubling farmers' income

One-day awareness camp on beekeeping under NABARD funded project “Mobilization of Farmers through Development of Bee Village for Collective Marketing of Organic Honey” was organized by Division of Entomology, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology at Bharakh, (Pouni) Reasi on 10-12-2020 under the esteemed encouragement of Honb’le Vice Chancellor Dr. J. P. Sharma. The programme was organized in collaboration with KVK Reasi and Department of Agriculture, Reasi. Mr. Sunil Singh Dy. Director Floriculture and Landscaping was chief guest of the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sunil Singh emphasized the farmers to adopt beekeeping to increase their income resources. He expressed satisfaction that beekeeping is being well adopted in the country for increasing crop productivity. Dr. Devinder Sharma, PI of the Project said that Beekeeping has been useful in pollination of crops, thereby, increasing income of the farmers/beekeepers by way of increasing crop yield and providing honey and other beehive products, viz. royal jelly, bee pollen, propolis, bees wax, etc. that serves a source of livelihood for rural poor. Therefore, honeybees/ beekeeping has been recognized as one of the important inputs for sustainable development of agriculture/ horticulture. He said that bees are vital links of our ecosystem and therefore promoting apiculture is of huge importance for our environment. He emphasized the farmers to adopt beekeeping to increase their income resources and stated that Jammu and Kashmir is one of the most important and suitable beekeeping places for the stationary and migratory beekeeping because of its favorable climatic conditions and diverse natural environment. Dr. Banarsi Lal, Incharge KVK, Reasi spoke about the prospectus, present status of beekeeping in Jammu emphasized for the better management of bee colonies for increased honey production. Mr. Adarsh Gupta, DDM NABARD, Reasi highlighted the importance of the beekeeping for increasing productivity and providing employment to the unemployed youth. He informed the participants regarding the various schemes and programme of NABARD. Dr. Mangla Ram Bajiya (JRF) gave a detailed lecture on diversification in beekeeping. Practical demonstration was given to the trainees in the Apiary. Dr. Sanjay Kaushal, SMS Agronomy and Sh. Amrik Singh AEO, Pouni also deliberated upon various aspects of beekeeping. Progressive farmers viz. Sh. Gurdev Singh, Kamal Kumar and Jarnail Singh expressed gratitude to the organizers and requested that such programmes should be conducted frequently to create awareness among the farming community.