



## Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu Directorate of Extension

### PRESS RELEASE

#### VC SKUAST-JAMMU LAUNCHED PLANTING FESTIVAL – THE VAN MAHOTSAV IN KATHUA DISTRICT AT KVK



Prof. Pradeep K. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) today launched Van Mahotsav, an Annual Tree Planting Festival in Kathua district at KrishiVigyan Kendra Kathua in the presence of Dr. R.K. Arora, Associate Director Extension (KVKs), Dr. AmrishVaid, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Kathua, SomDuttZard, District Youth Coordinator, NYK and scientists of the KVK.

Highlighting the importance of Van Mahotsav, Prof. Pradeep K. Sharma briefed about the usefulness of planting trees in monsoon for sustaining our environment including agriculture under the effect of climate change. He appreciated the efforts of KVK Kathua in organising the tree festival and suggested to cover maximum area under trees in this festival week in different villages of the district. He also suggested to plant such tree species in the villages that would help rural people to earn in the long run, either in the form of fruits or timber. In his address, Prof. Pradeep K. Sharma also briefed about the activities of SKUAST-Jammu for welfare of the farmers and rural youths and advised that farmers should make full use of the technologies available with the University for enhancing agricultural growth in the state.

On the occasion, a newly renovated training hall of KrishiVigyan Kendra Kathua equipped with latest ICT tools was also inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, which shall be open to the farmers and trainees of the KVK Kathua. The training hall has been renovated with installation of latest audio-visual aids including electronic podium and interactive board for effective learning of the trainees.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu also presided over the 15 days induction programme on “Vision and Mission for National Development” for NYK Volunteers being organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Kathua in collaboration with KrishiVigyan Kendra Kathua. Prof. Pradeep K. Sharma motivated the trainees to concentrate their energy in developmental works for making their



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contribution to the nation building. Vice Chancellor also distributed certificates to pass out rural youths who have recently completed the skill development training on poultry farming at KVK Kathua sponsored by Agriculture Skill Council of India, New Delhi and interacted with them to discuss their prospects and concerns for setting up their own ventures.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. R.K. Arora welcomed the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and other participants and informed about the movement which was initiated by Dr. K M Munshi, Indian Union Minister for Agriculture in the year 1950 and after which every year millions of saplings are planted all across India in observation of the Van Mahotsav week. He also highlighted the importance the new training hall for organising future training programmes at KVK Kathua. He assured to organize more training programmes for youths registered with NYK.

Dr. Amrish Vaid, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Kathua briefed about the current activities being carried out by the KVK in their farm and also at different villages. He also presented the formal vote of thanks.

Dr. Vishal Mahajan carried out the proceedings of the programme. Dr. Neerja Sharma, Dr. Anamika Jamwal, Dr. Berjesh Ajrawat, Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Dr. Saurav Gupta were also present during the occasion. Others who participated for the smooth conduct of the programme includes Mrs. Anita Saproo, S. Satbir Singh and Sh. Bharat Bhushan, of KVK Kathua.

