

Himalayan Day Celebrated at SKUAST-Jammu



Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu celebrated Himalayan Day today on 09 September 2021 to spread the message for sustainable development and ecological stability for the Himalayas. On the occasion, Sh. O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi, Retd. IFS was the Chief Guest while Prof. J. P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir and Dr. Tarsem Chand, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India were guest(s) of Honour. In his inaugural address, Prof. J.P. Sharma highlighted the issues of climate change and their impact on ecology in general and agriculture in particular. Prof. Sharma also appreciated the efforts of Environmentalist and founder of the Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO), Padma Bhushan Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi for Conservation of Himalayas.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi, Retd. IFS spoke about the Himalayan concerns and how most developmental activities and projects are being planned and implemented without giving cognizance of its impact on environment and ecology. He made the audience aware about the role of agrochemicals in polluting the soil for the sake of increasing productivity. He suggested that the focus should be on quality and not on quantity. In his lecture, Sh O.P. Sharma, Vidyarthi informed the gathering that the period between 2021-2030 is the

decade of ecosystem restoration. He suggested maintaining a balance between development activities and conservation of ecology, and understanding and respecting the fragility of the mountains in every action or inaction we take. Dr. Jag Paul Sharma, Director Research and Registrar of SKUAST-Jammu was the Convener and Dr. Bikram Singh, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture was Co-Convener of the programme. The programme was attended by Sh. Rajesh Talwar, Comptroller and Director Planning, Prof. Jyoti Kachroo, Head, AEABM, Dr. S.K.Gupta, Incharge Examination Cell, Heads of Divisions, Dr. Amrish Vaid, Dr. Prashant Bakshi, Dr. Neelesh Sharma and Dr. Narinder Panotra, Co-Organizing Secretaries, members of teaching fraternity, organizing committee members and PG students. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Sonika Jamwal, Assistant Professor, ACRA, Dhiansar while vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Bharat Bhushan Joint Registrar and Organizing Secretary of the event.