

Press Release

VC SKUAST Jammu inaugurated National webinar on “Beekeeping-Opportunities and Challenges”



Inauguration of two days National webinar by Prof. J.P Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu & SKUAST-Kashmir on the eve of World Honey Day 2021

A two days webinar on “Beekeeping-Opportunities and Challenges” was organized by AICRP (Honeybees and Pollinators), Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with National Bee Board, Govt. of India to celebrate the World Honey Bee day 2021. The webinar was attended by more than 400 delegates from all across the nation and included scientists, scholar, farmers, policy makers as well as prominent agripreneurs of the UT as well as the country.

Dr. J.P. Sharma, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST (J&K) the chief guest on the occasion Professor Sharma expressed satisfaction at the conductance of this webinar and congratulated the organizers for such a huge participation of the delegates from all across the nation. During his address Dr. Sharma stressed upon exploiting the employment potential of agricultural sector by promotion of agriculture and allied enterprises like Apiculture, mushroom cultivation etc. He focused on creation of farmer producer organisation (FPOs) for bee keepers of the Union territory for effective marketing, branding, packaging and value addition of honeybee products like Royal jelly, Bee venom, rearing of colonies etc. on sustainable basis besides taking benefits of govt. He expressed serious concern at limited jobs in services and organised sectors in the country and hoped that Agripreneurship holds the key to realize the dream of Atmanirbhar

Bharat in present times and there are many ongoing schemes from financial institutions like NABARD, KVIB, Department of Agriculture, National Bee Board etc. for increased profitability and income to the bee keepers of the region. He eulogized the importance of Honeybees for mankind as they are vital for living organisms to survive as life will cease to exist on Earth in absence of Honeybees in few years. Dr. Sharma informed the house about sanction of funds to an FPO in collaborations with 4 KVKs of SKUAST-Kashmir of Pulwama district for creation of lab facilities for benefit of bee keepers of Kashmir valley.

During the webinar, Dr. Jagpaul Sharma, Director Research & Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu highlighted the importance of Honeybees in increasing the productivity of different crops and fruits ranging from 30 to 70 % . He further highlighted the opportunities for Agripreneurship in Apiculture for increased employment generation to educated unemployed rural population and stressed upon integration of Apiculture with high density fruit orchards as well as crop production with an aim of doubling farmer's income as well as sustainability of the agro-ecosystems through increased biodiversity.

In his opening remarks, Dr. R.K. Gupta, Professor & Head, Division of Entomology welcomed all the dignitaries present in the webinar and highlighted the occasion of World Honeybee Day in view of the importance of Honeybees for the benefit of the mankind.

At the outset, Dr. Devinder Sharma, Asstt. Professor & Organizing Secretary of the webinar welcomed all the dignitaries, delegates and participants in the two days National Webinar. The webinar was attended by eminent scientists, policy makers and Agripreneurs of repute from all over the country. Dr. Balraj Singh, Project Coordinator, AICRP (Honeybees & Pollinators), Dr. D.P. Abrol, Ex. Dean (FoA), SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. P.K. Chunneja, Professor & Head, Division of Entomology, PAU, Ludhiana, Dr. B.L. Saraswat, CEO, National Bee Board, Govt. Of India, Sh. K.K. Sharma, Director Agriculture Production & Family Welfare, Jammu, Sh. Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing (J&K), Jb. Rashid Ahmad Qadri, Secretary/CEO, KVIB (J&K), Sh. A.K. Sood, Chief General Manager, NABARD, J&K, Nirmal Kumar Varshney, Devbhoomi Jaivik Krishi Evam Madhumakkhi Palan Sansthan (NGO) put forth their views during different technical session held during the webinar

Technical team consisting of Dr Manish Sharma, Professor and Head, Statistic and Computer Science, Faculty of Basic Sciences Dr Rajan Salalia, Senior Scientist (Entomology), Dr Punit Choudhary Sr Scientist and Head KVK Jammu, Dr Sachin Gupta Associate Professor (Pathology) and Dr pawan Sharma Scientist Agril Economics, Directorate of Extension, SKAUST-J helped in smooth conduct of the webinar on virtual platform. The proceedings of the day were recorded by Dr. Rajeev Bharat, Scientists-Agronomy, AICRP (Rapeseed Mustard) and Dr. Vivak M. Arya, Asstt. Professor (Soil Science).