

Farooq Khan Inaugurates Workshop on Promotion of organic farming at SKUAST-Jammu



SKUAST Jammu in collaboration with Directorate of Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare, Jammu today organized one day workshop at Baba Jitto Auditorium, Chatha on the promotion of organic farming in Jammu and Kashmir: Exploring Prospects and Tapping Potential. The workshop was inaugurated by Farooq Khan, Advisor to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory who was the Chief Guest on the Occasion. Prof. J. P. Sharma, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST J&K & Patron of the Workshop was Guest of Honour on the occasion. The workshop was organized with an aim to develop a framework for promoting the organic farming system in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking on the occasion, Farooq Khan, Asvisor to Hon'ble LG, laid stress that scientists and officers of the department should develop a mechanism for inculcating organic culture among the farming community. He

informed that hard targets have to be kept and main role is to be played for increasing farmers' income and conversion of agricultural produce into healthy agricultural produce. He added that marketing and packaging along with certification in organic products have to be undertaken to facilitate the promotion of organic farming and for that matter we are planning for opening of model showrooms in metro cities by J&K Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department. The department will made linkage with farmers for selling of their produce and later on it will be run by farmers' themselves. He emphasized the role of three components of agricultural system namely University, department and farmers. The Advisor asked the scientists of the university to prioritize the research based on farmer issues.

Prof. J. P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST (J&K) complimented Sh. Farooq Khan, Advisor Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor for his active role and support in the development of university. He apprised the Advisor Khan that the university is working in close coordination with the department for mapping different districts in order to revise the organic map in the Union Territory so that 'One District One Product' is identified for its further promotion and branding. He stressed to promote slurry obtained from Bio Gas Plant as fertilizer. Prof. Sharma in his address said that though we are food surplus country but now we need to focus on nutritional security as large chunk of population is undernourished. Prof. Sharma also informed the gathering that FPOs are going to play a major role in doubling of farmer's income. Moreover branding, marketing and promotion will also be part of the activity of Farmers' Producer Organizations. The Vice-Chancellor highlighted that the recommendations of this workshop will not be merely an academic exercise but a plan to be implemented on the ground.

On the occasion, Mr. K. K. Sharma, Director Agriculture, Jammu informed that organic policy for Union territory of J&K is already drafted and will be roll out very soon wherein organic areas will be identified and promoted accordingly. He desired that this workshop shall be helpful for farmers and entrepreneurs to learn standards of organic farming from experts/ scientists across the country. He also batted for safe agriculture. Mr. Ram Sewak, Director Horticulture, Jammu while speaking during the workshop, said that organic farming is not a new process but it has been carried out traditionally since long. Earlier Dr. Jag Paul Sharma, Director Research and Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu welcomed all the dignitaries and also informed the audience about the workshop. Sh. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi, Padma Shri Awardee also spoke on the occasion and discussed about the opportunities of organic farming and identified issues pertaining to FPO's, He was sure that this workshop would be a platform to learn and earn from organic farming. During the technical session of the workshop, deliberations were made upon the practical experiences, certification and scientific interventions in organic farming. Expert Lectures were delivered by Padma Shree Bharat Bhushan Tyagi ji, Sh. Sunil Kandela, Sh Vinod Mehta, Dr. Jag Paul Sharma, and Dr. J. P. Saini. Proceedings of the workshop were conducted by Dr. Vivak M Arya, Assistant Professor, Soil Science. During the workshop Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director Extension, Dr. S. E. H. Rizvi, Director Education and Dean, F.B.Sc., Mr. Rajesh

Talwar, Comptroller and DPM, Dr. Bikram Singh, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. M. S. Bhadwal, Dean, F.V.Sc., Sh. R. P. Gupta, Estates Officer, Galaxy of scientists, faculty, Director(s) of Development Department, District Officers, persons from media, National/ Local Farmer and budding entrepreneurs in organic farming were also present. At the end of the inaugural function, vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Vikas Sharma, Organizing Secretary of the workshop. Dr. Narinder Panotra and Dr. S. K. Singh, Co-Organizing Secretaries were also present on the occasion.