

Training Programme on “Integrated approaches towards sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Organic Farming” for the Farmers of Lanabaka Village, Sirmour Organised at Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla on 20-21st February, 2017

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organised a training programme under ECO-WASH project funded by DST for the benefit of farmers of Lanabaka village, district Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh on 20th -21st February, 2017 with certain objectives to create awareness amongst the farmers for conservation of natural water resources, their hygiene and also to promote organics on their farm. This training programme was organized in the Conference Hall of HFRI in which twenty farmers attended the training.

First phase of the training programme started in the afternoon of 20th Fe. 2017 with Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Scientist and Coordinator of the training programme informing the farmers about various activities being implemented under the project and relevance of the farmers in rejuvenating natural water resources, maintaining their hygiene, rain water harvesting and organic farming. His introductory remarks were followed by the presentation of Shri Tarun Gupta, Senior Environment Officer, Department of Science & Technology, Shimla which focused on Water Conservation Strategies. Shri Gupta explained to the farmers various methods and techniques of water conservation and protecting soil erosion. He also deliberated upon rain water harvesting techniques and showed to the farmers through pictorial presentation various structures that need to be adopted for conservation of water according to the terrain of the area.

Dr. Manish Sharma, Principal Scientist (Vegetable crops) from Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan in his presentation talked about optimum utilization of already scarce water resources by adopting various techniques and also laid emphasis on increasing their farm income by adopting green house cultivation of cash crops like capsicum, peas, tomatoes etc. Dr. Sharma also exhorted upon the farmers to make maximum use of organic manure to cut down the cost of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and producing healthy crop for better returns.

Dr. Lal Singh, Director, Himalayan Research Group, Shimla discussed in detail the concerns and issues of the farming community at large by highlighting the needs for promoting cultivation of traditional agricultural crops, compost preparation from locally available raw material, cultivation of medicinal plants and Silage Making. Dr. Singh also talked about low cost solar heating systems and involvement of women force in Self Help Groups (SHG) for taking up cultivation of mushrooms and various other traditional organic products by sharing his field

experiences where adoption of organic cultivation by the farmers has increased their economic return.

On 21st February Shri. Sanjeev Thakur Divisional Manager, Chopal with his vast experience in Mid Himalayan Watershed Development Programme, delivered a talk on Jalagam and shared with the farmers various Watershed Management activities taken up under the programme. He requested the farmers to make optimum use of government policies and programmes for conservation of the water resources and their rational utilization. He also integrated crop cultivation with tree planting activities especially promoting fodder trees on farm bunds and around natural water sources.

Sh. G.S. Thakur, DCF (Retd.) discussed a case study on water conservation with participants and highlighted the contribution of the Panchayat and the role villagers can play in bringing greenery to the areas. Shri Thakur demonstrated to the farmers how the farmers of a particular panchayat were able to increase their by farm income by adopting various water conservation methods, constructing water harvesting tanks by channelizing the flow to the tank and rationalizing the distribution of water to farmers for irrigation purposes. He further exhorted upon the farmers to prepare a plan for the development of the panchayat and execute the plan with active participation of all the inhabitants of the panchayat.

At the end of the training programme, the participants, while giving their feedback, acknowledged efforts of the institute and showed their satisfaction over the training. They requested HFRI for organising more such trainings in future also by including the field visits of the experts for the benefits of the people. The training programme ended with a formal vote of thanks to the experts and participants.

Some Glimpses of the Training Programme



