

TRAINING OF FARMERS

Introduction

Training and extension is an important programme for the transfer of technology to the farmers for increasing horticultural production. This programme is also very important for human resource development to meet the skilled manpower need of the horticulture industry. The scheme aims at organizing training camps/ workshops/ seminars/ courses/ study tours etc. for the farmers.

Main objective of the scheme

- ∞ To organize special short term and long term training courses for the rural educated youths, so as to enable them to find self employment or part time employment in the horticulture industry.
- ∞ To organize training camps for farmers at State, District, Block & Village level for creating awareness amongst the farmers about the various schemes and programmes of the state Govt. and to acquaint them with the latest development in horticulture.
- ∞ To organize seminars for interaction between the farmers, technical personnel and scientists for solving the problems of horticulture industry.
- ∞ To organize study tours for the farmers to horticulturally developed areas/projects/research stations etc. to create awareness amongst them about the latest development in horticulture.

The shortage of skilled manpower on various aspects of horticulture operations is being increasingly experienced. Taking these aspects into consideration, the farmers shall be provided training on various aspects of horticulture and various training programme shall be organised as:-

- ∞ Long duration training in Horticulture in the PCDOS/Horticulture training centre/U.H.F. Research stations.
- ∞ Short duration training/seminars ranging from 1-20 days in important aspects of horticulture, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, Floriculture & fruit preservations.
- ∞ Conducting of study tours for the farmers within & outside the State

Venue, Duration and number of camps

The venue of the long duration training camps, district level training camps and village level training camps shall be preferably at the Departmental PCDOS. The venue of short duration training camps on Bee keeping, Mushroom Cultivation, Fruit Preservation and Flower cultivation shall be at the Bee Keeping stations, Departmental Mushroom Units, Fruit Canning Units and Model Floriculture Centre/Flower Nurseries respectively. The number of camps to be organised shall depend on availability of budget.

Training of women farmers

Women play important role in society, especially in development of agriculture and Horticulture sector in the country. Women as farmers contribute immensely for the family by carrying out various operations in the farms and orchards. It is therefore, important to train and sensitise the women farmers in various farmer training camps about Orchard Management, Fruit Processing, Mushroom Production and Flower Cultivation. Department shall make all efforts to train at least 30 % of women farmers in various farmer training camps out of total farmers to be trained. Women farmers group shall also be trained within district, state and outside the state by utilising funds available under the transfer of technology component of Horticulture Mission. Department will identify couples to motivate, sensitise and train them in modern farm management, post harvest management, fruit processing, value addition to the fruit crops and flower cultivation as per their need and requirement ,wherever possible. The complete family unit shall be associated and imparted training with a motive to forming a composite, dedicated group in order to raise their income levels.

Trainers for farmer training

Horticulture development officers at the Block level or posted in PCDO shall act as trainers for training of farmers in village level farmers training camps. The District Horticulture Officer or Subject Matter Specialist may also attend these training camps wherever possible. The District Horticulture Officer or Subject Matter Specialists will be trainers for farmers at district level training camps.

Feed back from the farmers and the trainers

The feedback on the issues to be raised by the individual farmer in various farmer training camps shall be submitted by the concerned officers to the Directorate of Horticulture through proper channels. The farmers shall also submit their feedback on trainings organised for them to the officers attending and organising training camp.