

## Adopt beekeeping to increase crop production, supplement farm income

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Scientific beekeeping can substantially augment the production of various crops, but also supplement the farm income. Dr Parvinder Kaushal, Vice-Chancellor of Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni expressed these views during the valedictory function of a 21-day training on bee breeding held at the university. The training was organized under the Managed Pollination Component of Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project (HP-HDP) by the Department of Entomology of the university.

Thirty bee breeders cum progressive beekeepers from 11 districts of the state participated in this programme. These trainees will be registered as bee breeders and will produce quality queens from selected colonies for their use as well as for sale in the state and region. Use of such queens will result in healthy and strong colonies for higher honey production and improved pollination services. He stressed the need to use pollination agreement where responsibilities of beekeepers and farmers are fixed.



Dr JN Sharma, Director of Research and nodal officer of the HP-HDP in the university called upon farmers and youngsters to become entrepreneurs in bee breeding. He added that the lack of pollinizer proportion and pollinators is one of the limiting factors for low apple productivity in the state. He expressed hope for the improvement of pollination services under this project.

Addressing the gathering, Vice-Chancellor congratulated the participants and expressed hope that the bee breeders will ensure the supply of quality queens to beekeepers. He called upon beekeepers to become entrepreneurs and master trainers for popularizing scientific beekeeping and pollination services in the state. Dr Kaushal was of the view that trained human resource in beekeeping should be available at every village. He added that as horticulture is a big contributor to the state's economy, it is pertinent that the pollination services will improve production and quality of the produce. Dr Kaushal said that the promotion of beekeeping will ensure food sustainability and employment generation and stressed on the need to increase bee flora and honey production in the state and develop an international market for monofloral honey. He called upon scientists to impart skill development trainings in other related areas of horticulture like grafting and pruning.