

Brainstorming session to develop roadmap for research and extension activities held

Nauni, September 2019

A brainstorming session for developing a roadmap for research and extension strategies of Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF) was held at the university campus in September. Besides the scientists from the university, over 150 serving and retired scientists and officials from the horticulture, forest departments and other institutions and progressive farmers participated in the event. Dr ML Dhiman, Director Horticulture, Dr KC Azad, former Director Horticulture; Dr Jagmohan Singh, former VC UHF Nauni; Dr JN Sharma, Director Research; Dr Rakesh Gupta, Director Extension Education, HODs of all departments, Associate Directors of Research Stations and KVK in-charges also took part in the event.

Sessions on Horticulture Production, Plant Protection, Post-Harvest Technology, Preservation and Value Addition, Natural Farming and Forestry, Environment and Resource management were held. Valuable suggestions were shared by the participants, which will be considered for developing the future research and extension strategies of the university.

The experts were of the opinion that we need to relook into the horticulture development activities particularly in research and extension. Availability of quality planting material, identification and development of new strains of different cultivars resilient to diseases and pests and climate change were the need of the hour. There was a consensus among the participants that major emphasis should be given on improved technology under the changing climatic and social scenario. In addition, there is a need to shift towards commercial farming from the present traditional farming and greater emphasis must be given to the education and involvement of women, and environment friendly approaches for the cultivation of fruits and vegetables along with the natural farming technique. Post-harvest handling, preservation, processing and value addition of horticulture produce was another area, which found prominent mention along with the production of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Thanking the participants for sharing their valuable suggestions, University Vice-Chancellor Dr Parvinder Kaushal said that a monitoring committee from the university will check the progress on the various issues that were taken up during the various sessions. He was of the view that some part of the market cess collected from the farmers must flow back into R&D at universities and institutions for funding research activities.