

Farmers learn about avenues in spawn production

A five-day training programme on 'spawn production' was held at the Chambaghat situated Spawn Research Laboratory of the Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF). The training was held under the MIDH project. Fifteen mushroom growers and spawn producers from Solan and Bilaspur, and extension officers took part in the programme. Project coordinator Dr Dharmesh Gupta informed that the spawn made by the university was well sought after in the market. Besides Himachal, the spawn is sent to neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Delhi.



The objective of the training was to provide practical training to the participants. Various topics like the utility of good quality spawn in mushroom production and the setting up of new enterprises were taken up during the event. Dr AK Gupta, Head UHF's Department of Plant Pathology addressed the participants and informed about the immense potential for the spawn industry in Himachal Pradesh. The spawn of button mushroom and dhingri is always in high demand in the market especially in the winter months when it is difficult to meet the demand.

The participants were also apprised about the diseases, which affect spawn cultivation along with the government initiatives for promoting new enterprises. Dr VP Sharma, Director, Directorate of Mushroom Research, Chambaghat, also addressed the participants on the status and scope of mushroom and spawn production in Himachal and India. Among other speakers were Dr. CL Jandaik, Dr. BC Suman and Dr. CD Thapa who gave their expert inputs on various aspects of spawn production.

