

20th July, 2019

Make natural farming a mass movement

A one-day state-level training programme on 'Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan' was held at Village Baagi Gwas in Rohru on Saturday. Dr Parvinder Kaushal, Vice-Chancellor of Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The training was organized by the Department of Horticulture in association with Singh Apple Orchards, Baagi. The natural farming team of UHF Nauni provided technical support to the training. Over 1000 farmers from Himachal, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir, scientists from the main campus of the University and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Rohru and officers from the horticulture department took part in the event.



Pitching for more and more farmers to take up natural farming, Dr Kaushal said that the farming model suits the environment of the state and the farmers can benefit from increased income due to low input cost while the consumers will easily get healthy foodstuff. Calling for people's participation in making Himachal a role model in natural farming, Dr Kaushal said, "We have to make natural farming a mass movement because the excessive use of chemicals has reduced the fertility of the soil. The way we produce our food

need to be changed. Besides productivity, we also need to look at the quality of the food that we produce." said Dr Kaushal.

He added that the university would establish a dedicated task force and protocol for the propagation and promotion of Subhash Palekar Natural Farming at the main campus, research stations and the KVKs of the university. Dr Kaushal said that over 600 natural farming demonstration models will be established in all the districts of the state through the KVKs and research stations of the university. Moreover, experts from the university's main campus at Nauni will carry out regular training of farmers and master trainers. Fifty farmers, five from each block, will be chosen to visit natural farming models in other states. Progressive farmers in natural farming will also be honoured by the university and made ambassadors of natural farming in the state.