

State Level Seminar on development of beekeeping

- Role of bees in pollination explained to participants

A two-day state level seminar on Awareness, Motivation & Technology Transfer for Development of Beekeeping was organized at the Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni. The National Bee Board sponsored seminar was organized by the Department of Entomology of the university.

Over 100 participants including farmers from nine districts of Himachal Pradesh attended the seminar along with students and experts. Dr Anju Khanna, Head Department of Entomology and coordinator Dr Harish Sharma said that Himachal Pradesh has done pioneering work in the area of managed pollination, but the scope for improvement in this field was vast.

Dr. Harish Sharma said that the focus of the seminar is to create awareness among the farmers on the huge potential and benefits of beekeeping and undertake technology transfer for its development in the state. He also shed light on the vital role played by bees in pollination and in increasing the production and quality of various crops.



In his address, UHF Vice-Chancellor and the Chief Guest Dr HC Sharma said, “Beekeeping is one enterprise in which one does not need much infrastructure for starting a new business.” He added that greater emphasis on improving the genetic diversity of the bees was need of the hour in order to derive better results.



Asking the farmers to take greater pride in their work, the Vice-Chancellor said, “We need to attract youngsters to agriculture and it can only be done when we take pride in the profession. Young agriculture graduates should become agricultural entrepreneurs and provide jobs to people.”

Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Dean College of Horticulture spoke on the scope of doubling farmers’ income through beekeeping. He shared that the university has reserved 50 percent of the seats in its B Sc programme for students from the rural areas (those who have passed two exams (Class 8, 10 and 12) from government schools located in rural areas. This has been done to give equal opportunity to students from rural background to study agriculture and implement their learning in their own fields.

During the seminar, various aspects of beekeeping including production of quality hive products, managed honeybee pollination, importance of queen and mass queen rearing, pollination requirement of commercial vegetable and horticultural crops and safety of insect pollinators from pesticides will be taken up. Experts will also apprise the participants about the economics of beekeeping, marketing opportunities and value addition of hive products. An exhibition on beekeeping and the technologies used in it was also displayed at the university campus.