

Workshop on preparing Climate-Smart Agriculture profile of Himachal

As part of its effort to prepare the first state-level Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) profile in India and to mainstream climate resilience into the agriculture sector, a broad consultation workshop was held at the Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni in the month of September. The World Bank supported Integrated Development Project (IDP) of the Himachal Pradesh's government and CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) in collaboration with UHF's Department of Environmental Science and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) organized the workshop. The experts from state departments of Forests, Horticulture, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Environment, Science and Technology and scientists from UHF Nauni



took part in the workshop.



The workshop aimed to leverage the understanding of the participants on climate change and develop a shared vision for scaling up CSA. The results of this discussion will inform future work on CSA in the state by identifying the key institutions supporting CSA, and the most appropriate technology packages for different zones across the state.

DrRenuSaizal, Assistant Conservator of Forests welcomed the guests and gave a brief background of the IDP and the CGIAR. In his address, DrPramod Aggarwal, Regional Programme Leader of the CCAFS informed that they had collaborated with the World Bank to prepare CSA profiles of

20 countries and Himachal Pradesh was the first state in India where such a profile is being prepared.

The workshop was divided into two sessions. The first session was on the technologies, which can be implemented in the state, and the second focused on the institutions and policies. Addressing the gathering Dr HC Sharma, UHF Vice-Chancellor said, "Himachal is very sensitive to climate change and this is a reality that cannot be ignored. Climate variability will lead to a shift in cropping patterns and it is important to identify crops, cultivars and animal breeds that can withstand drought stress".

He advocated for a stronger policy for public transport and planned expansion of roads through maximum use of tunnels and pillars, which do not disturb the natural vegetation and water movement along the mountain slopes. Special focus must be given on water harvesting systems in homes to recharge groundwater, along with the promotion of precision farming techniques that maximize water use efficiency. Dr SK Bhardwaj, Head UHF's Department of Environmental Science explained the climatic scenario of the state. Several topics like irrigation, pasture management, agri-technology, weather-based crop insurance schemes and pollution from agricultural activities were also taken up during the workshop.