

Participation in Consultation Workshop for India's Clean Plant Programme for Horticulture

A consultation workshop on India's Clean Plant Programme (CPP) for relevant commercial horticultural crops was organized in collaboration by NHB, MIDH, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Asian Development Bank from 30th -31st, January, 2023 in New Delhi. The major drawback which the horticulture industry is facing is lack of quality planting material and its traceability. This indeed has led to huge economic losses to the growers. In view of above the main theme of this workshop was to initiate CPP for some of the important fruit crops.

The broad objectives of the proposed CPP were (i) to enhance yield of horticulture crops by providing disease free planting material and dissemination and adoption of climate resilient varieties. (ii) to protect ecosystem through proactive virus and disease controls and (iii) to enhance stakeholder capacities for the adoption and operation of clean plant production, maintenance and distribution. Presentations on CPP and its governance were given by experts and officers from various countries viz. Netherlands, US, Australia and Canada. In depth discussion on the current scenario of quality planting material and problems faced by nurseries was also held. Dr. A. K. Singh, DDG (Hort. Sci.), ICAR, New Delhi briefed on Indian horticultural crops scenario and focused on how to increase the availability of disease-free planting material which will help in improving the value of the horticultural crops. Presentation on India's current planting material management and governance system including the proposal of establishing centre of excellence was presented by Joint Secretary, Hort & INM, MoAFW, India. After an in-depth discussion as to how the programme will be initiated, crops to be undertaken for the programme and mode of conductance of programme by representatives of ICAR institutes and nursery stakeholders, Ms Mio Oka, Director, ADB South Asia Department concluded the programme. Dr. P.H. Nikumbhe, Scientist (Fruit Science) and Dr Sharmistha Naik, Scientist (Fruit Science) ICAR NRCG actively contributed to the workshop and exchanged scientific and technical issues represented the grape industry and exchanged technical issues faced by the grape industry.

After the open discussion with concerned nursery stakeholders, researchers and State government officials all the points were noted by NHB, MIDH and ADB. It was decided that initially few economically important fruit crops will be undertaken for the programme and clean plant centres will be established to run the programme successfully.

