CEO, HKKP Delivers Expert Lecture on Climate-Smart Crop Planning at National Training Programme

Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), January 2026

Dr. R. S. Chauhan, Chief Executive Officer, Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran (HKKP), participated in the Five-Day National Training Programme on "Climate-Resilient Agriculture for Management of Dryland Ecosystems of the Himalayas", organized from 12th to 16th January 2026 at the Himachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Mohal, Kullu, of the G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE).

Dr. Chauhan, while the introductory session, briefed about the agriculture scenario in Haryana, He told about the support and schemes initiated by the state govt. for sustaining & improving the agriculture in Haryana. The govt initiatives for adoption of natural farming, sustainable agriculture, resource management, mechanization, development of climate-resilient varieties etc. were discussed in detail. He focused on strengthening climate resilience at the most vulnerable stage of crop growth—the seedling phase, particularly under dryland and conditions. During his address, Dr. Chauhan emphasized that climate-smart agriculture must begin with healthy, climate-ready seedlings, as erratic rainfall, temperature extremes, moisture stress and pest incidence increasingly threaten crop establishment. He elaborated on how scientific nursery management acts as the first line of defense against climate stress, ensuring better survival, uniform crop stand and reduced risk of crop failure.

Linking experiences from Haryana with Himalayan dryland challenges, he highlighted advanced nursery techniques such as soil solarization and eco-friendly soil sanitization, raised bed preparation for effective drainage, line sowing and mulching for disease and moisture management, plug tray and net-house nursery systems for quality seedling production, hardening techniques to enhance stress tolerance before transplanting. Dr. Chauhan also underlined the importance of crop diversification enabled through nursery-raised seedlings, allowing farmers to adopt short-duration, stress-tolerant and high-value crops even under uncertain climatic conditions. He stressed that resource-efficient agriculture technologies optimize water, nutrients and costly hybrid seeds, making them particularly suitable for fragile dryland ecosystems.

The session was highly interactive, with participants from various ministries, state departments, research institutions and KVKs engaging in discussions on scaling climate-smart nursery practices, integrating traditional knowledge with scientific innovations and replicating successful models across vulnerable agro-ecological regions.

The participation of CEO, HKKP in the national programme reflects the Pradhikaran's continued commitment towards promoting climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable land management and farmer-centric innovations.