

State Level Workshop on Promotion of Agri-Entrepreneurship

Karnal, 26th September, 2025.

The *State Level Workshop on Promotion of Agri - Entrepreneurship* was successfully organized by the **Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran (HKKP)** at *Dr. Gurbachan Singh Foundation for Research and Development Centre, Karnal*. The event witnessed the participation of about 180 farmers from adjoining districts of Haryana. Eleven progressive farmers/Agri-entrepreneurs along with agricultural scientists shared their experiences and expertise during the workshop.



The workshop was inaugurated by Sh. Virender Singh Badkhalsa, OSD to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana & graced the occasion as chief guest. In his keynote address, he stated: *"The Hon'ble Chief Minister envisions that every farmer of Haryana should not only be a food provider but also a successful entrepreneur. True value for farmers' hard work is realized only when their produce reaches the market with processing, packaging and branding."* He encouraged farmers to adopt FPOs, startups and innovative practices and highlighted the government's continuous support in providing modern technologies, equipment, processing units and training facilities. He concluded by stressing that *"Agri-entrepreneurship is the future and Haryana is determined to be a leading state in this field."*

Dr. R. S. Chauhan, CEO, HKKP, delivered the welcome address and gave a detailed briefing on entrepreneurship initiatives. He stated that *"The purpose of this workshop is to connect farmers with modern technology, entrepreneurship and collective approaches."* He said, that farming is no longer limited to just sowing seeds and harvesting crops; it has become a complete business. When farmers adopt modern technologies, organize themselves into FPOs and take their produce directly to the market after processing, packaging & branding only then they will receive the true value of their hard work."



Sh. Kavinder Rana (Representative of Hon'ble Union Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar) highlighted the Union Government's schemes like *Startup India*, FPO promotion initiatives and incubation of startups, new ideas that provide direct support to farmers.

Sh. Nepal Singh Rana motivated farmers by saying that farmers are hardworking and committed, but

need the right direction and technological support. He stressed that such workshops will definitely help farmers in gaining confidence and building strong networks.

Expert Farmers' and Agri-Entrepreneurs' Lectures

The technical session featured 11 eminent farmers/entrepreneurs, who shared their success stories and expertise:

1. **Sh. Sultan Singh (Nilokheri, Karnal – Padma Shri Awardee, Fisheries Development)**
 - Demonstrated how fisheries can be adopted as a profitable diversification model.
 - Stressed that fish farming, if pursued scientifically, can substantially supplement farm income.
2. **Sh. Kanwal Singh Chauhan (Sonapat – Padma Shri Awardee, Baby Corn Pioneer)**
 - Shared his journey of introducing baby corn in India and turning it into a profitable niche crop.
 - Encouraged farmers to take up non-traditional crops with strong market demand and export potential.
3. **Sh. Rajesh Kumar (Kaithal – Krishi Ratna Awardee, Organic Farming)**
 - Advocated for organic farming and its benefits for soil health and consumer demand.
 - Urged farmers for gradual transition from chemical-intensive farming to organic practices.
4. **Sh. Puneet Singh Thind (Ambala – Krishi Ratna Awardee, FPO Leader)**
 - Highlighted the success of Farmer Producer Organizations in reducing input costs and improving market linkages.
 - Motivated farmers to work collectively for better bargaining power.
5. **Sh. Mahender Singh (Kaithal – Krishi Ratna Awardee, Wheat Productivity)**
 - Shared scientific techniques to enhance wheat productivity.
 - Emphasized the importance of using high-yielding varieties and mechanization.
6. **Sh. Vikash Chaudhary (Karnal – Krishi Ratna Awardee, Crop Residue Management)**
 - Addressed the critical issue of stubble burning and presented sustainable alternatives like Happy Seeder and balers.
 - Showcased eco-friendly practices to protect the environment.
7. **Sh. Harvinder Singh (Kurukshetra – Krishi Ratna Awardee, Potato Seed Production)**
 - Explained his successful model of producing certified potato seeds over 60 acres.
 - Suggested that seed production can emerge as a highly profitable Agri-enterprise.
8. **Sh. Rajbir Singh (Karnal – Krishi Ratna Awardee, Animal Husbandry)**
 - Spoke on dairy entrepreneurship and his work with indigenous Sahiwal and Tharparkar breeds of cow.



- Highlighted the importance of parallel income through animal husbandry.
- 9. **Sh. Sanjay Kumar (Karnal – Agri Entrepreneur, Fruit Farming & Seed Enterprise)**
 - Shared insights into fruit farming and the importance of branding and contract farming.
 - Motivated farmers to explore seed enterprises as an alternative income stream.
- 10. **Sh. Virender Bajwan (Panchkula – Agri Entrepreneur, Mushroom Farming)**
 - Presented innovative mushroom cultivation practices suitable for hilly regions especially medicinal mushrooms.
 - Emphasized mushroom as a low-cost, high-return farming enterprise.
- 11. **Sh. Harpal Singh Bajwa (Kurukshetra – Krishi Ratna Awardee, Mushroom Entrepreneurship)**
 - Shared his journey of scaling mushroom farming into a commercial venture.
 - Advocated cluster-based farming for better profitability.



Additionally, agricultural scientists including Dr. O. P. Chaudhary, Principal, College of Agriculture & Regional Director, Regional Rice Research Station, Kaul; Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology and Dr. Rajender Singh Gadhwal, Assistant Professor, Soil Science & Natural Farming, College of Agriculture, Kaul delivered expert lectures on natural farming, soil health, crop protection and integrated farming systems.

Exhibition Highlights

As part of the workshop, an exhibition of Agri-entrepreneurship products was also organized, showcasing the innovations and value-added initiatives of Haryana's progressive farmers.

- Sh. Rajesh Kumar (Kaithal, Organic Farming Expert) displayed a range of organic products including cereals, pulses and vegetables produced through natural farming methods. His stall attracted farmers who were keen to learn about the techniques of soil enrichment, pest management without chemicals and the growing consumer demand for organic products in urban markets.
- Sh. Virender Kumar (Panchkula, Mushroom Entrepreneur) presented an impressive display of medicinal mushroom-based products, including dried mushroom powder, capsules and value-added food



supplements. He explained the health benefits of medicinal mushrooms and their increasing market potential in the wellness and nutraceutical sector.

The exhibition allowed farmers to directly interact with successful entrepreneurs, understand the value of branding, processing and product diversification and explore how similar models could be adopted in their own farming practices.

Interactive Session

The open house discussion witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 180 farmers, who raised questions about FPO formation, market linkages, reducing production costs, processing units and technology adoption. The experts provided practical solutions and shared successful models from the field.



Concluding Remarks

The event concluded with Vote of Thanks by Dr. Gurbachan Singh, who appreciated the presence of all dignitaries, expert farmers, scientists, students and participating farmers. He emphasized that HKKP is committed to promote Agri-entrepreneurship and farmer innovation across Haryana.

Key Outcomes

- 11 expert farmers/entrepreneurs and 3 scientists delivered thematic lectures on entrepreneurship and diversification.
- Around 180 farmers benefitted directly from the interactive sessions.
- Farmers showed keen interest in FPO formation, value addition and Agri-based startups.
- The workshop reinforced Haryana's commitment to making farming a profitable and entrepreneurial venture.

