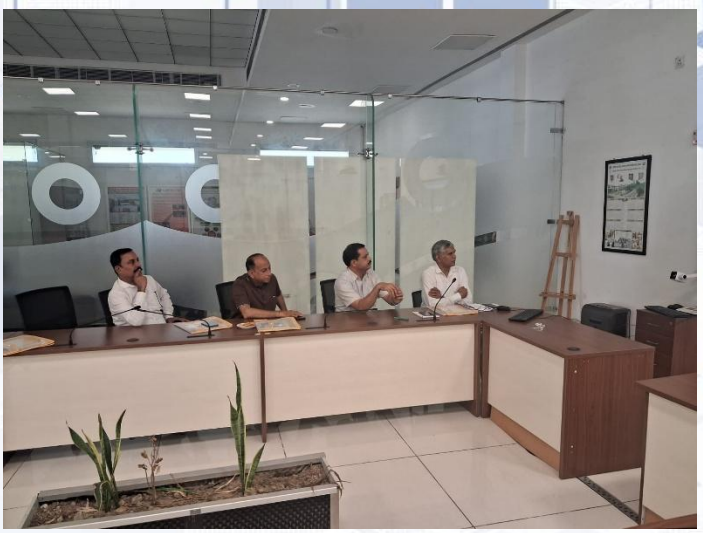
HKKP Holds Meeting to Discuss Promotion of Agro-Forestry in Haryana

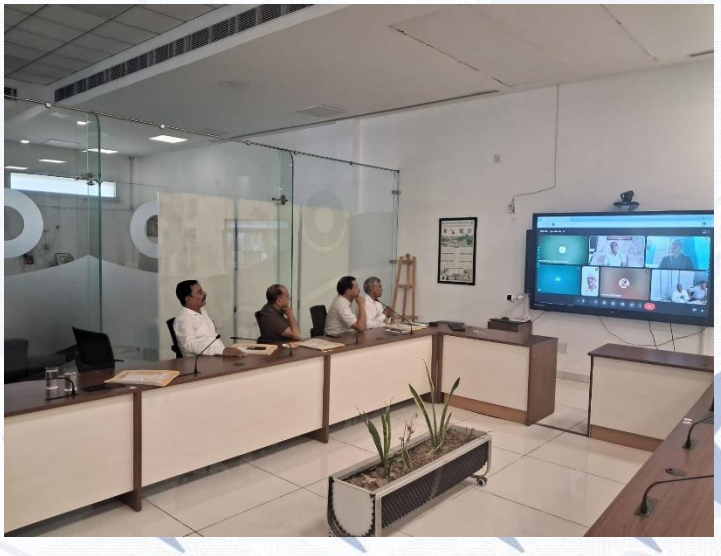
Hisar, October 8, 2026



The Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran (HKKP) convened a meeting of the Working Group on Promotion of Agro-Forestry in Haryana at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar, to discuss the current status, challenges and opportunities for promoting agro-forestry in the state.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Naresh Kaushik, Director Extension Education, CCSHAU, Hisar and Principal Scientist (Agro-Forestry). Dr. R. K. Narwal, Retired Professor, CCSHAU, Hisar; Dr. Sunder Lal, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Rohtak; Dr. A. K. Handa, Principal Scientist, ICAR–Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh; and progressive farmer Sh. Pritam Singh from Village Thambar, District Ambala, participated in the deliberations.

At the outset, Dr. R. S. Chauhan, Chief Executive Officer, HKKP, warmly welcomed all the members of the Working Group and expressed his appreciation for their participation and valuable expertise. Dr. Chauhan emphasised the need for the Working Group to develop practical, research-based and farmer-oriented recommendations for promoting agro-forestry in Haryana. He particularly highlighted the challenges faced in southern Haryana due to water scarcity and brackish groundwater, and stressed the need to identify suitable tree species and explore agro-forestry as a viable option for diversifying farmers' income. He also urged the members to examine the potential of biodrainage in waterlogged areas, identify suitable locations for implementing such projects on the basis of relevant reports, and suggest appropriate support measures, including subsidies on planting material, to encourage farmers to adopt agro-forestry. He expressed the expectation that the Working Group would prepare a comprehensive and actionable roadmap for the sustainable development of the sector in the state.



The members discussed the potential of agro-forestry to diversify farm income, improve the productive use of agricultural land and strengthen farmers' livelihoods. The need for region-specific approaches was highlighted, particularly in southern Haryana, where water scarcity and groundwater conditions pose challenges to the adoption of agro-forestry. The members also discussed the scope of biodrainage in waterlogged areas and recommended expanding such initiatives after identifying suitable locations through relevant studies and reports.

The Working Group emphasised the need to promote suitable tree species based on local soil, water and climatic conditions. It was suggested that research be undertaken to identify species suitable for waterlogged areas and that area-specific recommendations be developed for different parts of Haryana. The importance of preparing a list of suitable tree species for farmers was also highlighted.

The members further discussed the need to encourage farmers to adopt agro-forestry through appropriate financial and policy support. Suggestions included exploring subsidies on planting material, developing a credit-card or top-up credit facility for farmers undertaking tree plantation, and considering additional incentives for tree cultivation on agricultural land. The possibility of promoting timber-producing species and reviewing the existing arrangements for marketing tree produce was also discussed.

The Working Group highlighted the importance of institutional support for strengthening the agro-forestry sector. Suggestions included establishing a Centre of Excellence, imparting skill development training to rural youth, developing district-level nurseries for quality planting material at affordable rates, and exploring incentive mechanisms for the plantation of suitable tree species. The need to promote farmer awareness, research-based guidance and market linkages was also emphasised.

The deliberations concluded with the need for a coordinated approach involving agricultural universities, forestry experts, relevant government departments and farmers to formulate practical and sustainable strategies for expanding agro-forestry in Haryana. The recommendations of the Working Group will contribute towards developing a roadmap for enhancing farm productivity, diversifying farmers' income and promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the state.

