

Kisan Gosthi on Natural Farming and Agriculture Diversification

Date: 4th February, 2025

Venue: Indri, Karnal.

Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran (HKKP) organized a Kisan Gosthi on natural farming and agriculture diversification on 4th February, 2025, at Taj export seeds company, near grain market, Indri, Karnal to interact with the farmers of Karnal district and to motivate them for adoption of natural farming and agriculture diversification. The aim was to engage local farmers in discussions around sustainable agricultural practices. The gosthi focused on creating awareness on natural farming techniques, which are eco-friendly, cost-effective, with an aim to reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The goal was to promote soil health, increase biodiversity and conservation of natural resources which is vital for long-term agricultural sustainability.



Dr. Ravindra Singh Chauhan, Chief Executive Officer, HKKP was the Chief Guest of the event. Sh. Sanjay Kumar, Director, Taj Export Seeds Company, Dr. Vishal Goyal, DES Soil Science and Dr. Gajender Singh, DES, Zoology deliberated as Expert Speakers. Dr. Sanjay Yadav, Research Fellow, HKKP executed the event as Nodal Officer.

The farmers were educated by the experts on the basics of natural farming, which includes techniques like zero-budget natural farming (ZBNF) which avoids the use of external inputs and promotes the use of locally available resources to maintain soil fertility and plant health. Emphasis was placed on enhancing soil health through the use of organic matter, crop rotations, mulching, and the incorporation of natural microorganisms. Farmers were encouraged to avoid monocropping, which depletes soil nutrients, and instead practice diversified cropping to restore soil fertility.



The officers of Agriculture and Horticulture department, Karnal informed about state government schemes that support natural farming and diversification, such as financial aid, training programs, and subsidies for organic inputs and mobile testing labs for soil samples. The Government of Haryana has been promoting these practices to improve the livelihoods of farmers and ensure food security.

In his address, Dr. Chauhan said that it is necessary to encourage farmers for gradually transition to natural farming practices which involves a blend of education, support and practical incentives that help them to receive the long-term benefits. The shift from conventional methods, especially those relying heavily on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, to natural farming may seem daunting, but with the right approach, it can lead to sustainable farming, improved soil health, and reduced costs.

He further said that agriculture officers of the area must encourage peer-to-peer learning which can go a long way in boosting confidence like setting up farmer groups focused on natural farming can provide an avenue for sharing experiences, solving problems together and learning from one another. Connecting experienced farmers who have successfully made the transition to natural farming with others who are new to the practice creates a mentorship system. He informed that soil testing for micro and macro nutrients is very crucial to avoid unorganised and unplanned application of fertilizers.

In his concluding remarks, he said that by making the transition incremental, supporting farmers every step of the way and demonstrating the long-term benefits, we can help Haryana's farming community move toward more sustainable and profitable agricultural practices. Over time, as more farmers adopt natural farming, it can transform the agricultural landscape, making it healthier, more resilient and better suited to the demands of the future.

The Gosthi provided an opportunity to the farmers who have adopted natural farming or diversification strategies to share their success stories. This helps others to understand the practical challenges and benefits of adopting such practices.

