

Record note of the On Farm demonstration of CCEs for Apple and Saffron held at SKUAST- K, Shalimar Campus, Srinagar on 03-02-2017.

As a follow up action to the decisions taken in the meeting held under the chairmanship of Shri. Pramod Jain (IAS), Financial Commissioner, APD, J&K Government with the representatives of the empanelled Insurance Agencies held on 27th of Jan 2017 at JK House, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi wherein it was decided to hold On Farm Demonstration so as to know how CCEs are to be undertaken for their better understanding while quoting the premium rates for Apple and Saffron and to generate a healthy competition through active participation in the bidding process for the notified crops in the notified areas as approved for implementation of PMFBY w.e.f. Kharif 2017, an On Farm Demonstration of **CCEs for Apple and Saffron** for the representatives of the empanelled insurance Agencies (IAs) was held at **Directorate of Research, SKUAST K, Shalimar Campus, Srinagar on 03-02-2017**

The demonstration was given by Prof. M. Y. Zargar, Director Research, SKUAST K and was attended by the Mission Director PMFBY (J&K) Sh. Altaf Aijaz Andrabi and the representatives from empanelled Insurance Agencies (IAs). List of participants is enclosed as **Annexure "A"**.

At the very outset, Director Research, SKUAST K welcomed Mr. Altaf Aijaz Andrabi, Mission Director, PMFBY, J&K State, Scientists from the Division of Fruit Science and Genetic & Plant Breeding and the representatives of insurance agencies for their participation in the demonstration. He also gave a brief overview of the process which are undertaken to firm up the process of Crop cut experiments (CCEs).

While interacting with the representatives of the insurance agencies, Mission Director, PMFBY, J&K State stressed on the need to firm up the process of CCEs in Apple and Saffron as these two crops are economically the most viable crops which provide strength to the State's economy and help in generation of employment.

While deliberating on the CCE of Apple crop Dr. Mohammad Shafi Wani, Professor, Fruit Science, SKUAST K, discussed the Quantification of Yields of Apple and said that the Apple yield/unit area is calculated by taking into consideration the location of the orchard, irrigation status, age of bearing trees, soil conditions, variety and planting density. It was also informed that the randomisation of trees in a heterogenous orchard for undertaking CCEs are to be grouped as per their age and status of bearing in a group of 4-5 trees per ha and not more than 5% of the area.

Dr. W. M. Wani, Professor, Fruit Science, SKUAST K added that for individual apple tree the yield is calculated by multiplying the expected number of fruits with average weight of the fruit(150g).

Dr. A. H. Pandit and Dr. F. A. Banday, Professors, Fruit Science, SKUAST (K) informed the representatives that a normal apple orchard with a spacing of 6X6m can accommodate about 273-275 trees/ha of orchard area. Taking into consideration the average yield data for the last 10 years of a particular area is important for estimation of yield/unit area and can be calculated by using the formulae: **Yield/ha = cumulative yield/No. of years.**

Speaking during the demonstration Dr. F. A. Nehvi, Professor, G&PB, gave a brief presentation on the CCE for Saffron and informed the participants that for the CCE in Saffron parameters like farm age, plant population/m² and critical stages of plant development i.e. Sprouting, flowering, vegetative phase and dormancy need to be recorded for cultivation of saffron yield (Kg/ha) and corm yield (quintals/ha).

Prof. Nehvi demonstrated the participants to earmark the net plot area of 30m² from 10 random places of the farm and to ensure that flowers are collected only from the earmarked area at every picking interval. He also said that the collection of two day old flowers at each flower picking during October and November in early morning hours in loose and airy baskets ensuring that no dew is on the flowers and are replicated ten times. Furthermore, he said that while conducting CCEs for saffron we have to ensure separation of fresh pistils within 5-10 hours of flower picking and ensuring quick drying of separated pistils using scientific dryers to a safe moisture level of 10-12%.

After the demonstration of CCEs for Apple and Saffron in the fields was completed the team led by Prof. M. Y. Zargar, Director Research and Mr. Altaf Aijaz Andrabi, Mission Director, PMFBY, J&K State called on the Honourable Vice -Chancellor, SKUAST (K), Prof. Nazir Ahmad in his office chambers.

At the outset Honourable Vice -Chancellor, SKUAST (K), held a round of brief introduction with the visiting representatives of the different Insurance Agencies. After which Prof. M. Y. Zargar, Director Research and Mr. Altaf Aijaz Andrabi, Mission Director, PMFBY, J&K State gave a brief introduction to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor regarding the purpose and need to hold the On Farm Demonstration.

The introductory session was followed by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor 's brief account of the working of SKUAST (K) through its faculties, regional Research stations and Divisions. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor while interacting with the participants discussed

the potential of Horticulture Crops in the economic field of the State and said that with the increase in the area under High Density Plantation there would be a manifold increase in the production and productivity of Apple Crop across the Valley. He asked the representatives about the modus operandi of the PMFBY to which Mr. Altaf Aijaz Andrabi, Mission Director, PMFBY, J&K State gave details regarding the Scheme. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor advised the representatives of the Insurance Agencies to hold campus interviews for Agriculture and Horticulture Graduates for positions in their respective companies for successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY).

Later on the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor got firsthand feedback from the participants regarding the On Farm Demonstration to which all the participants were in agreement that they were helped greatly by the demonstration program.

At the end, Hon'ble VC wished all the participants the best of luck and wished for the successful implementation of the PMFBY for the betterment of the Farming Community of the State.

Sd/-
Prof. M. Y. Zargar,
Director Research, SKUAST K,
Shalimar Campus

**List of participants for
on farm demonstration for crop cut experiments for Saffron and Apple at
Directorate of Research, SKUAST Kashmir, Shalimar Campus
on 03-02-2017**

S. No.	Name of the participant	Name of the Company
1.	Prof. M. Y. Zargar	Director Research
2.	Mr. Altaf Andrabi	Mission Director PMFBY
3.	Prof. F. A. Nehvi	Professor I/C Saffron Research Station
4.	Prof. Fayaz A. Bandy	Fruit Science, SKUAST Kashmir
5.	Prof. Wali Mohd. Wani	Fruit Science
6.	Prof. M. Shafi Wani	I/C Head, Fruit Science, SKUAST Kashmir
7.	Dr. A. H. Pandit	Fruit Science, SKUAST Kashmir
8.	Mr. Suren Patro	Reliance
9.	Mr. Azhar Mirza	ICICI Lombard
10.	Afroza Rashid	ICICI Lombard
11.	Mr. Mukhtar A. Lone	Bajaj Gernerall
12.	Sheikh Nazic	SBI General
13.	Mr. Musharaf Tahir	Bajaj Allianz
14.	Farah Afshan	Bajaj Allianz
15.	Mr. Abhishek	Chola MSGIC
16.	Mr. Suhail Inamullah	Deptt. of Agriculture
17.	Mr. Ajaz Bhat	HDFC ERGO
18.	Mr. Abdulah Yousuf	Universal SUMP