



Workshop on Protected Cultivation of High-Value Horticultural Crops

Date: Thursday, 21st September 2023

Venue: Room No. 303, C Block and Agricultural Farm, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram

Event Type: Workshop

Mode of Activity: Hybrid Mode

Target Group: Students of School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS)

Resource Person: Dr. V. S. Pal (Founder and CEO, Pratham Organics)

Organized by: School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University (in collaboration with KEIC)

Number of Participants: 25

Faculty Coordinators: Dr. Ambika Bhandari, Ms. Priyanshu Choubey, and Dr. Deepak Kumar

Introduction

The School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS) at K.R. Mangalam University organized a workshop on ‘Protected Cultivation of High-Value Horticultural Crops as a Livelihood Opportunity in Urban Agriculture’ in collaboration with the K.R. Mangalam Entrepreneurship and Innovation Cell (KEIC) on 21st September 2023. The objective of the workshop was to empower students with modern agricultural practices that enhance productivity, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. The session aimed to familiarize participants with protected cultivation systems and the potential of high-value horticultural crops in urban farming contexts.

Key Activities

The workshop commenced with a comprehensive session led by Dr. V. S. Pal, Founder and CEO of Pratham Organics, who joined virtually to share his expertise on the cultivation of high-value crops under protected structures. He elaborated on various



technologies involved in modern horticulture, such as climate-controlled environments, micro-irrigation, fertigation systems, and soil-less cultivation methods. Dr. Pal emphasized the importance of urban agriculture in improving food security, resource efficiency, and environmental sustainability. He also highlighted innovations like precision farming, vertical agriculture, and automation, which are transforming the future of horticultural production.

Following this session, Dr. Ambika Bhandari conducted a hands-on demonstration at the university's agricultural farm. Students actively participated in the plug tray technique, a method used to produce vegetable and flower seedlings in a controlled environment. They learned how to prepare potting mixtures using cocopeat and perlite, ensuring proper aeration and nutrient balance. The process involved seed sowing in trays, maintaining spacing, watering, and observing germination under regulated temperature and humidity conditions. The demonstration gave students practical exposure to seedling management and nursery practices essential for high-value crop cultivation.

Conclusion

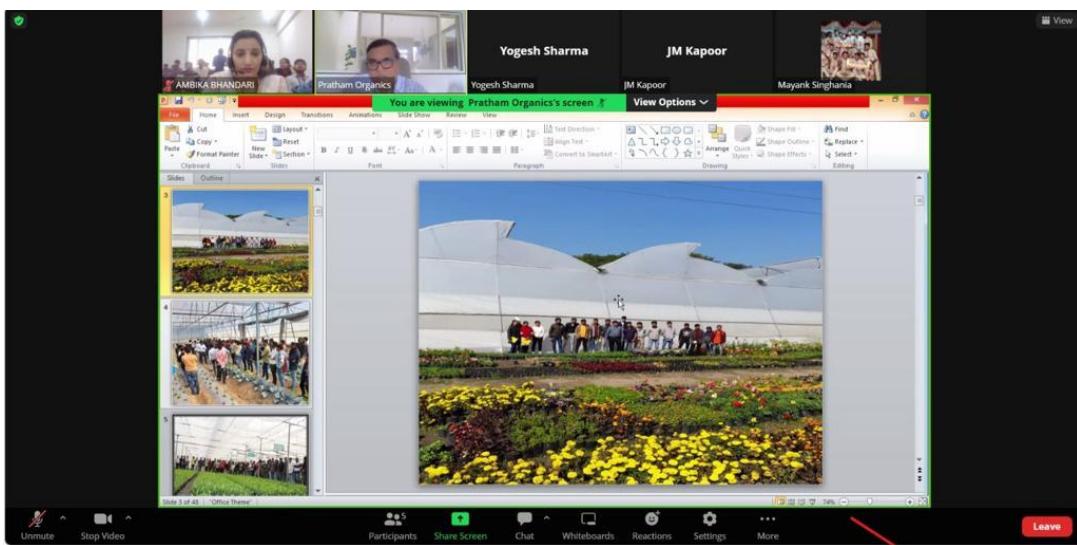
In conclusion, the workshop was a resounding success, combining expert guidance and hands-on training to provide a holistic learning experience. The collaboration between SOAS and KEIC effectively demonstrated how innovative agricultural practices can lead to sustainable livelihoods. Students left the session motivated to explore new opportunities in urban and protected farming systems. The event was coordinated and executed successfully under the leadership of Dr. Ambika Bhandari, with the dedicated support of Dr. Deepak Kumar, Dr. Neha Sharma, and other faculty members. Their efforts ensured the seamless organization and impactful delivery of this enriching educational event.

Outcomes

The workshop provided students with valuable exposure to both theoretical and practical aspects of protected cultivation. They gained insights into nursery management, fertigation systems, and the handling of controlled environments for optimal crop yield.



Participants also recognized the economic potential of integrating protected cultivation techniques into entrepreneurial ventures. The interactive nature of the session encouraged students to ask questions and engage with modern technologies, enhancing their readiness for future agricultural challenges. The workshop helped bridge the gap between classroom learning and field-level implementation.



Dr. V. S. Pal explained various methods to protect cultivation of high-value horticultural crops



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A group photo of students





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Students sowing the seed in trays