

## **Agriculture Department organizes district-level PM Kisan Samman Samaroh in Kargil**

Kargil, February 24, 2025: The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kargil-1 today organized a district-level PM Kisan Samman Samaroh at Auditorium Hall, Kargil.

The event marked the release of the 19th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana to beneficiaries, a significant occasion for the farming community, with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India addressing the gathering via video conference.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon was the chief guest, while Executive Councilor for Agriculture, Aga Syeed Mujtaba Mussavi, was the guest of honor, and Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Suse, attended as the special guest. Also present were Director of Horticulture, Tsewang Phunchok; Chief Agriculture Officer, Aashiq Hussain; Chief Horticulture Officer, Mohd Ali Raza; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Gulzar Hussain; Scientist KVK-I, Dr. Nazir; Chief Scientist and Head of the School of Agriculture Science and Technology, Kargil Campus, University of Ladakh, Dr. Faizan Ahmad; District Agriculture Officer, Mohd Iqbal, along with staff from the Agriculture Department, KVK, and progressive farmers.

The program began with a welcome speech by Chief Agriculture Officer, Aashiq Hussain who highlighted the significance of the PM-Kisan Scheme.

CEC Dr. Akhoon addressed the gathering by underscoring the sustainability of agriculture as a vital sector. He extended his gratitude to the farmers for their dedication and noted the impressive growth of mushroom cultivation under the KVK initiative.

He highlighted the benefits of organic farming and the potential of local products like Sea Buckthorn, known for its significant health benefits. Sharing his experience from a visit to Delhi Haat, he cited examples of farmers from Leh who produce Sea Buckthorn-based products such as jam, juice, and tea bags, generating a good income. He urged farmers to utilize water and other resources efficiently to maximize productivity in their fields.

The CEC also visited all the stalls installed by the Agriculture Department and KVK, exploring the various initiatives and innovations that were showcased.

On the occasion, EC Agriculture, Aga Syeed Mujtaba Mussavi spoke about the importance of farming in Islam, highlighting that farming is one of the most encouraged professions in the religion, with many verses in the Quran related to agriculture.

In his address, DC Kargil, Shrikant Suse, congratulated the department on achieving 100% saturation under the scheme and commended the farmers for their continued efforts. He stressed the importance of interdepartmental collaboration for the success of various schemes and urged the department to support Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in leveraging the scheme, empowering women farmers to become "Lakhpati Didis."

Earlier, State Nodal Officer for PM-Kisan, Razia Banoo, gave a presentation detailing the benefits and registration process of the PM-Kisan Scheme. She said the department has exceeded its saturation target, reaching 14,942 registrations compared to the original target of 13,043 potential beneficiaries.

Dr. Nazir, Scientist KVK-I, urged beneficiaries to use the funds credited to their accounts for farming purposes, such as purchasing quality seeds. He informed that Mundik village is the only certified organic village in Kargil. He encouraged other villages to apply for certification through NPOP or PGS. He emphasized the importance of FSSAI licensing for organic products.

The Agriculture Department screened a success story highlighting the impact of the PM Kisan scheme on local farmers. Progressive farmers were recognized and honored with mementos. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by District Agriculture Officer Mohd Iqbal, while the program proceedings were conducted by Ibrahim Shoqi.







