

As Part of #AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV, HFRI Shimla, organized Training cum Awareness programme on “**Nursery and Plantation technology of *Juniperus polycarpus***” on 22nd July, 2022. About 50 frontline field staff of forest department from Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti and Ladakh, UT regions participated virtually. At the outset Dr. Jagdish Singh, Head Extension, welcomed all participants for sparing their valuable time and briefed about the importance of AzadiKaAmritMahotsav and training programme. Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director-In-charge of the institute, during his inaugural address highlighted the significance of Junipers in maintaining the fragile eco-systems of cold desert regions. He further urged the participants to make session more interactive and hoped that they would be benefited from this programme. Shri Pitamber Negi, Scientist-D, made a detailed presentation on the topic. He told that this species is very important for the cold desert. He further told that natural regeneration of this tree is very less in its natural habitat mainly because of various biotic and abiotic factors. For the first time the institute was successful in developing its nursery and plantation technology. Juniper is in great demand by forest department and local people in cold desert regions. So far, the institute has distributed about 15000 saplings to the forest department and the local people of cold desert area. On the demand of participants; Dr. Jagdish Singh, Scientist gave a lecture on “Cultivation of Important High Altitude Medical Plants”. During the closing session, all the queries of participants were satisfactorily replied. The participants appreciated the training program and thanked the Institute for organizing such a useful event for the benefit of frontline staff of SFD,s and farmers of Cold regions of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh, UT.