

Farmers' Interactive Programme
On
“Juniper Propagation and Management on 22.08.2018 at Nubra Valley, Leh”



Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla and **ICAR-Central Arid Zone research Institute, RRS, Leh** jointly organized one day farmers' Interactive meet at **Sumur village, Nubra valley, Leh** on the Topic “**Juniper Propagation and Management**” on dated 22nd August, 2018. A total of 42 progressive farmers from **Sumur and Khardung** villages took part in this programme. This programme was funded by ICAR- CAZRI, since it was organized on the request of ICAR-CAZRI, RRS, Leh.



At the outset, **Dr. Sanjeev Chauhan**, officer in-charge, CAZRI, RRS, Leh , welcomed the villagers and thanked the Director, HFRI, Shimla for accepting the request of ICAR-CAZRI for organizing this collaborative farmers' meet. He apprised about the objective of this joint interactive meet on Juniper propagation, modern techniques for raising vegetable crops and composting. **Dr. Sandeep Sharma**, Scientist, HFRI appreciated the effort of CAZRI and gave

a brief overview of the research and extension activities undertaken by HFRI, Shimla especially pertaining to the cold desert region.



Shri Pitamber Singh Negi, Scientist, HFRI who developed and standardized the technique for breaking seed dormancy of *Juniperus polycarpus* (Locally known as '**Shukpa**'), gave detailed presentation on the various aspects of Juniper technology i.e. time of seed collection, pre- sowing treatments for breaking seed dormancy and its propagation techniques through seeds in the nursery.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist, HFRI gave a presentation on the importance of modern nursery for production of Juniper. He also briefed about the Juniper seed and nursery technology for the benefit of local communities.





Ms. Stanzin Landol, Technical Assistant, CAZRI, RSS, Leh, translated all the presentations made by the scientists in to Local Ladakhi dialect for the convenience of the participants. She also elaborated composting technique and use of waste decomposer kit for reducing the composting time. After the presentations the programme was followed by open session for interaction with the farmers to satisfy queries related to the Juniper and vegetable production.

HFRI, Shimla distributed few **Juniper seedlings**, whereas ICAR-CAZRI, RRS, Leh distributed **Waste Decomposer Kits** for fast composting of organic material.

In the afternoon, participants were taken to farmers' field and given practical demonstration about raising of Juniper plants. A local progressive farmer **Mr. Tashi Norboo** elaborated the



modern techniques of vegetables crops cultivation adopted by him through the intervention from ICAR-CAZRI, RRS, Leh.

On the request of the farmers, HFRI, scientist also visited Sumur Monastery to identify Juniper plants growing in the campus of the Monastery and suggested subsequent treatments for raising Juniper stock through the seeds of those plants.



In the end, **Shri Vinod Kumar**, Assistant Chief Technical Officer, HFRI, Shimla gave formal vote of thanks to the participants and resource person from HFRI, Shimla and ICAR-CAZRI, RRS, Leh for their collaborative efforts in organizing this interactive programme for the farmers of Sumur and Khardung villages. He opined that such kind of joint programmes must continue in future to strengthen the collaborative endeavor of both the organizations for the betterment of cold desert region.

GLIMPSES OF THE PROGRAMME



MEDIA COVERAGE

8/30/2018

Training Programme on 'Propagation of Juniper and Management' held



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Training Programme on 'Propagation of Juniper and Management' held in Sumoor

By Reach Ladakh Correspondent, Thursday, August 30, 2018

NUBRA:

To promote Juniper tree plantation in the region, one-day training was imparted to the farmers of Sumoor and Khardong village on August 22. The training was organised by Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), RRS Leh in collaboration with Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla.



Juniper (Shukpa) is a sacred tree for the region and at present, there are very few trees remaining in the region. The species is difficult to raise as it requires at least a year to break the dormancy of the seed. At present, Thuja is planted as juniper and nursery growers from Srinagar and adjoining areas sell the plants in Leh during the month of April-May.

Dr. SK Chauhan, CAZRI-RRS Leh Head shared detailed activities of the station and the importance of the training with the farmers. He stressed on the small initiatives being taken by the centre, providing good quality high yielding seeds, management techniques, etc. to the selected villages.

Two scientists from HFRI Shimla, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, and PS Negi elaborated the techniques of growing juniper including seed collection, processing, pre-sowing treatment, management of seedlings, storage of seed, etc.

Expressing their concerns the farmers interacted freely with the visiting scientists of CAZRI and HFRI on various related issues. The literature on the aspect was also provided including a visit to the village to check the infestation of insect on surviving trees of Juniper.

CAZRI-RRS Leh assured to arrange good quality seed from HFRI Shimla.

Stanzin Landol, Technical Assistant assured that the organization will give every possible technical support to the farmers.
