

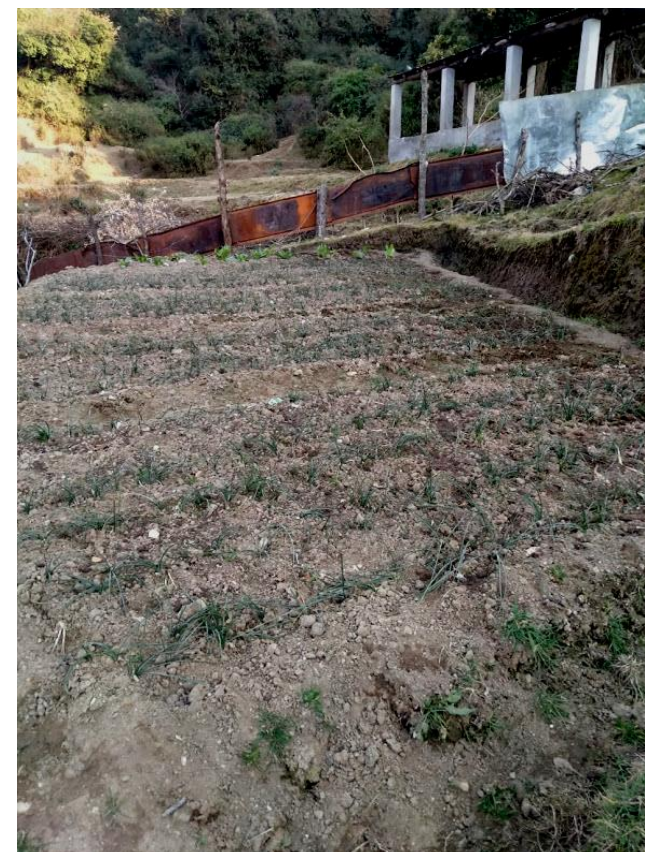


NATIONAL MISSION ON HIMALAYAN STUDIES (NMHS)

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Brief Report on
Saffron Cultivation in Uttarakhand



Saffron Cultivation in Uttarakhand

Journey (2020-2024)

Kashmiri Chinar to Oak Shade



Under National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) efforts to grow saffron imported from Kashmir in Uttarakhand were successful for the year. Saffron grown on trial basis in different cold areas of Hilly district Almora UK gave the expected production for the 4th year also and the corm seeds are being properly preserved by the farmers. It is clear from the shared experiences of various farmers that saffron cultivation can be a medium of rural agro based livelihood with the cooperation of various line departments in the district. This can become a major source of livelihood for small land holder farmers here.

In September 2018, Nodal officer NMHS-PMU brought 2 kg of saffron Bulbs from Kashmir to Almora & planted them in the Institute as trial. After good production in the frist year next year, in

February, saffron sample tested by **Saffron Research Station Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar Srinagar J&K**, & quality was found to be of high.

Inspired by this, in 2020, about 2.5 quintals quality Saffron corm were again ordered from Sher-e-Kashmir University through the district administration Almora. Under the **Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATAMA)** project, the Horticulture Department distributed saffron to selected farmers of 3 blocks of the district for trial production. Along with the scientists and technicians of the University, the officers of the Horticulture Department Almora planted the saffron Corms in the farmers' fields at places like Shitlakhet, Tadikhet ,Dwarahat and lamgara etc.





During training farmers were informed about Corm treatment, planting and protection and techniques of seed multiplication. Limited quantity of saffron bulbs given to 13 farmers for sowing by NMHS. In which more than 3 kg of seeds were distributed as trial to selected farmers of Nainital, Dwarahat, Uttarkashi Districts. After **4 years** many of cultivators are eager to make saffron a part of their Agri- livelihood by sowing it as trial.



In September 2020, saffron procured from Sher-e-Kashmir University in collaboration with NMHS was distributed in 03 blocks as trial. The farmers of Tadikhet, Hawalbagh, Dwarahat along with Lamgara were mainly involved in this. Through the District Horticulture Department, about 171 farmers and more than 25 people through NMHS-PMU were given saffron cultivation training and experimental corms.

At present, knowledge material is available on saffron production techniques, **SOP**, methods of preparation of its various products along with **Saffron Kitchen Garden Model** and **Saffron Intercropping** along with **Testing kit** for identify **Fake saffron** are the major achievements of NMHS related 2 projects. Along with this, simple farmer friendly knowledge material of saffron cultivation, management is also available, which can be helpful in wide spread of saffron cultivation in other Himalayan states including Uttarakhand.

Status of saffron Cultivators: - Feb 2024



S n .	Cultivator	Father's Name	Village	Block	Cultivation Area	Income(Rs.) /Season	
1	Narayan Singh	Jaint Singh	Khania	Tarikheth	0.5Nali	4-5000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 8 kg of saffron corm was planted by the Horticulture Department in the fields of Narayan Singh and his brother Kailash Singh. For next 02 years he got good flowers from it. • Due to limited cultivation of vegetables in saffron fields, they were not able to expand it further and their production became stagnant. • Presently the production of saffron has decreased. Corms were also sold by him. 							
2	Ravindra Chandra Shah	Bhuban Lal Shah	Dadgali Kalika	Dwarahat	0.5 Nali	3-4000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 10 kg of seeds were planted in Ravindra Sah's fields. • The production was good in the first year. • In 2022, the production of flowers decreased due to excess rains. • Presently they need to be encouraged for saffron cultivation. • This year also his saffron yield was fruitful and he was successful in multiplying his corm upto 12 KG. 							
3	Mohan Chandra belwal	Purnanand Belwal	Bhadgaon	Tarikheth	0.5 Nali	3500-4000	
Ç	Saffron production is going well in the fields of Mohan Chandra Belwal.						
Ç	They are continuously increasing its production every year.						
Ç	2022-23 he produce 12 kg Corms						
Ç	He currently has over 14 kg of bulbs. He is also encouraging other farmers for the same.						
4	Mahendra Singh Negi	Trilok Singh Negi	Syahi Devi State	Hawalbagh	0.5 Nali	3200-4000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Mahendra Singh Negi, he had cultivated about 10 kg of saffron. • The production was good in the first year. But his farming was heavily damaged by the rabbits. • The farmer said that rats caused immense damage to his crops and production decreased this year. • He informed that last year he had produced 150 grams of saffron. • This year he has removed the saffron bulb and planted it at another place in the flat field. At present they have been able to save 3 to 4 kg of Corms. 						

5	Manoj upadhyay	Gunga Dutt	Jyoli	Hawalbagh	0.25 Nali			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manoj is an ex-serviceman and has a passion for farming. About 8 kg of saffron was sown by the Horticulture Department in his 10 15 feet field. They kept increasing it every year under the guidance of Sher-e-Kashmir University. Presently he has more than 12 kg of saffron corm. According to him cultivation of saffron is possible in the mountains but it requires large farming. Manoj cultivated saffron scientifically and has set aside a field for it. At present he has secured more than 13 kg of seeds This year he produced 0.5 grams of saffron. 								
6	Ranjeet Singh	Soban Singh	Dhamus	Hawalbagh	0.5 Nali	4500-5500		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranjeet adopted farming in his village after leaving the metropolis during the covid crisis. About 10 kg of saffron corm was sown by the Horticulture Department in his field. About 6 grams of flowers were produced in the first year. He is producing Saffron by scientific method. Presently he has collected about 15 kg of saffron seeds. According to Ranjit Singh, he is happy with its cultivation, production is increasing every year. This year rats damaged the seeds in his field. At present he is producing 5 to 6 grams of saffron and more than 16 kg of seeds are safe with him. 								
7	Kunwar Singh	Durga Singh	Devlikhet	Tarikhet	0.22/10 Corm	Kg	NA	last year Corm damaged by wild boar Wild Now they have again created a security cordon in the fields. According to him, there is good production of saffron in this area and once he gets the seeds again, he will cultivate it properly this time.
8	Khyali Dutt	Mathura Dutt	Kot	Tarikhet	0.20/10kg Corm			Seed Damaged by land sliding on Field

The saffron planted at test bed near the scientific residence at the GBP NIHE headquarters by Nodal has also produce good crop this year also and its quantity is continuously increasing. All Cultivator informed soil is prefect in the area, they neither used fungicides nor any kind of chemical fertilizer in the cultivation of saffron. The land with better drainage of rain water at an altitude of 1500 to 2400 meters above sea level is suitable for farming. For yield, the maximum temperature should be 20 degrees Celsius. Apart from this, more than 10 farmers and center in-charges belongs to Horticulture Department were given 1 to 2 kg of Corm as trial. corms have been preserved by most people. According to him, its production is continuously increasing by paying attention and caring. Most of the farmers believe that through expert wing, farmers should be encouraged to cultivate saffron continuously.