

PG education at IIHR...

Present and future prospects

The Postgraduate School of Horticultural Sciences at IIHR, Bengaluru, is presently offering Ph.D. degree in the disciplines of Fruit Science, Vegetable Science, Floriculture and Landscape Architecture and Post-Harvest Technology, with a total of 30 students on roll. Subsequently, 115 scientists across 22 disciplines and 22 scientists in Horticulture have been recognized by the IARI, New Delhi, as faculty to impart teaching and to guide students in their research, respectively. The PG programme is in-house and all the basic facilities required for the students such as hostel, classroom, library, playground, recreation facilities etc. have been created at the IIHR campus itself. The Board of Studies, implements the desired courses and students' grades are extensively monitored online by using the IARI PG School management system. Apart from this, IIHR is also offering postgraduate and doctorate courses in horticulture and different subjects of University of Horticultural Sciences (Bagalkot) and guide postgraduate students through the MOU, leading to the award of M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Horticulture and allied disciplines.

THE Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru, was established by ICAR in 1967 to conduct research on various aspects of horticultural crops, viz. fruits, vegetables, ornamentals and medicinal plants in order to improve their productivity, quality and utility. The institute has its main research station at Hessaraghatta, Bengaluru, and Horticultural Experiment Stations at Bhubaneswar in Odisha and Chettalli in Karnataka, with two Krishi Vigyan Kendras located at Gonikoppal in Kodagu and Hirehalli in Tumkur districts of Karnataka, in addition to housing Project Coordinating Unit of All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Fruits at its main campus.

Post Graduate Education in Horticultural Science

In order to facilitate higher studies in various spectrums of horticultural sciences, the institute has signed MOUs with 18 universities/institutions across the country. Over the years, it has also spread its wings beyond the Indian shores and is sought after for training and collaboration by horticulturists from other parts of the world, especially, Africa, Middle East, South East Asia and

SAARC countries. At present, there are 134 research scholars pursuing higher studies in various branches of horticultural sciences.

Postgraduate School in Horticultural Sciences

The problems faced by current day horticultural research requires multidisciplinary research approach coupled with extended gap of available and required human resource, which calls for introduction of Ph.D.

programme in horticultural sciences at IIHR, Bengaluru. As a prelude to deemed university, since the 2014-15 academic session, as an out-reach programme of IARI, New Delhi, Ph.D. (Horticulture and Post-Harvest Technology) was implemented at IIHR, Bengaluru, with the inauguration of Post Graduate School in Horticultural Sciences, by Dr S. Ayyappan, the then Director-General, ICAR, New Delhi, on 16 August, 2014. Dr N. K.



Dr S Ayyappan, the then DG, ICAR, inaugurated postgraduate school

Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director-General (Hort. Sci.), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr R. K. Jain, Dean and Joint Director, IARI, New Delhi, were also present as Special Guests on the occasion. In his inaugural address, DG

remarked that the IIHR, Bengaluru, has all the expertise in human resources management and advanced infrastructural facilities for conducting research and pursuing higher studies in horticultural sciences in the country. He called upon the students to make best use of expertise and facilities to excel in their research.

Future of Post Graduate Education

During last year, Government of India took an initiative to establish Indian Council of Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education, (PGIHRE), Amritsar, Punjab. Subsequent to the comments recorded by Tenth Report of Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Agriculture (DARE), Government of India, to upgrade the IIHR as a Deemed University on Horticulture coupled with hands-on experience of successfully conducting out-reach programme of IARI, New Delhi, during the last two academic sessions, it is proposed to strengthen the Post Graduate education activities at IIHR, by offering both Masters and Doctoral degree programmes, in Fruit Science, Vegetable Science, Floriculture and Landscape Architecture, Medicinal and Aromatic crops/ Agronomy, PHT, Genetics, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Plant Pathology, Plant Physiology, Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry and Entomology.

An interactive session on Postgraduate Education in Horticulture was held on 29 April, 2016 at IIHR, Bengaluru. Chaired by Dr D.L. Maheswar, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Karnataka, eminent faculties, Dr H. Ravishankar, Dr K. Sooriyanatha Sundaram, Professor (Horticulture), TNAU, Coimbatore and Dr T. Janakiram, ADG (Hort Sci), expressed their views. There were about 100 students and over 80 faculties participated in the deliberation. During this occasion, Padmashri Dr K.L. Chadha, addressed the students and ignited them with his electrifying speech and called upon the students to aim high leading to path-breaking research and to uphold the credentials of premier institute. The following action points were emerged:

Action Plan

- Revisit course content and course work offered

across SAUs and deemed universities in view of the recent developments.

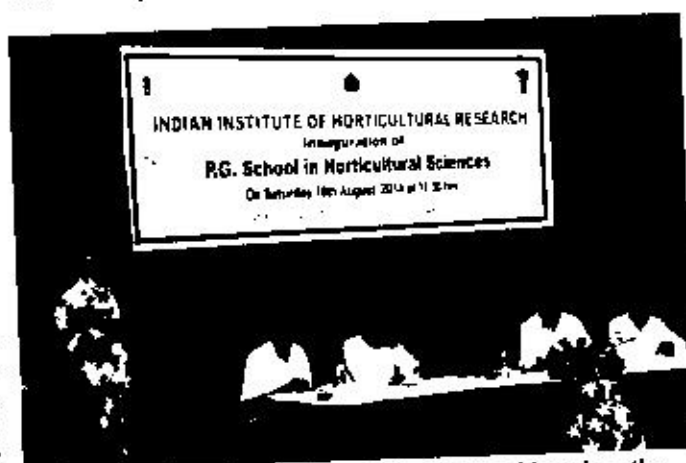
New courses like IPR in horticulture crops, under-utilized fruits and emerging aspects like use of wild species in crop improvement, climate change and its impact, ICT tools must be included as a part of course-curriculum.

- Explore the possibility to introduce sandwich Ph.D programme with a provision for students to undertake part of research activities in reputed labs inside and outside our country and one evaluator of Ph.D thesis must be from outside country. Weekly practical training on specialized aspects may be conducted.

- Identify core group of teachers/faculty to take education to fore front by providing all desired facilities.
- Students must be allowed to choose the

course load based on their research area with the guide allotment done well before the end of First trimester.

- Course curriculum should lead to development of skills for agri-business. Beyond scholars, students should be trained as a scientist also.
- Use of Video-conference facility with experts for imparting quality education covering common aspects of interest should be encouraged.
- MOU of universities with subject matter horticulture institutes of ICAR is needed.
- To encourage effective scientific article/thesis writing, experts may be invited to deliver guest lectures. Dr Som Dutt, Editor (IJAS), DKMA, may be invited, since he has already delivered a lecture to students which helped and encouraged them a lot at IIHR.
- Students seminar abstracts may be released as publication to avoid duplication and digitization of theses across SAUs/DUs.



Dr S Ayyappan, the then DG, ICAR, addressing the audience



Padmashri Dr K.L. Chadha addressing PG students

For further interaction, please contact to:

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