



# HIMACHAL PRADESH JICA AGRICULTURE PROJECT-II

SPECIAL DIARY

HAMIRPUR: 18 JUNE, 2026



## Experts from Japanese OJI Corporation visit Model Vegetable Farm, Bairtee in Solan



**Solan, 17 June:** Representatives from OJI Corporation visited the Model Vegetable Farm, Bairtee on Wednesday (June 17) and inspected the high-tech polyhouse while also interacting with a progressive farmer to facilitate discussions on sustainable agricultural technologies and packaging solutions. The visiting delegation comprised Mr. Masaki Chiba (Director), Mr. Daiki Ikeuchi (Assistant Director), and Mr. Gaurav Bhargad. Dr. Rajinder Thakur, District Project Manager, DPMU Solan, Dr. Yuvraj, Block Project Manager, BPMU Solan, Dr. Jitender, Subject Matter Specialist, along with extension staff from all project units, accompanied the delegation.

The OJI representatives first visited the office of the District Project Management Unit (DPMU), Solan, where they delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation on paper mulching sheets and eco-friendly packaging materials developed by the company.

The presentation focused on the advantages of paper-based mulching technologies, their role in sustainable agriculture, moisture conservation, weed management, and the potential replacement of plastic-based materials. During the interactive session, project officials shared their experiences regarding the challenges faced by farmers in vegetable cultivation,

including issues related to crop management, input costs, packaging, transportation, and marketing of produce. Discussions were held on the suitability and possible adoption of paper mulching sheets and sustainable packaging materials under local farming conditions.

Later, at the Model Vegetable Farm, Bairtee, the delegation was briefed on the different technologies and interventions being demonstrated at the farm, including



protected cultivation, improved vegetable production practices, natural farming techniques, and climate-resilient agricultural approaches. The delegation showed keen interest in the ongoing demonstrations and discussed the possible use of paper mulch sheets in vegetable cultivation to promote environmentally sustainable farming practices.

The team also had an interaction with Mr. Anokhi Ram, a progressive farmer associated with FIS Khaldar. The delega-

tion held detailed discussions on tomato cultivation, prevailing market rates, price fluctuations, and the major challenges faced by farmers in production and marketing. The farmer shared his experiences related to crop management, grading of produce, post-harvest handling, transportation, and market access. The delegation also discussed the use of pesticides, integrated crop management practices, and the adoption of natural farming methods. Particular emphasis was laid on understanding farmers' requirements for improved packaging solutions and the potential role of sustainable packaging materials in reducing post-harvest losses and improving marketability.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and experiences among OJI Corporation representatives, project officials, and farmers. The discussions helped in understanding field-level challenges and exploring innovative, environmentally friendly solutions for mulching and packaging in horticultural crops. The delegation appreciated the efforts being undertaken under HPCDP (Phase-II), JICA-ODA Project at Model Vegetable Farm, Bairtee, and acknowledged the progressive agricultural practices being adopted by farmers in the project area.