# HIMACHAL PRADESH JICA AGRICULTURE PROJECT-II

SPECIAL DIARY

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# Dr. Chauhan Highlights Himachal's Models of Crop Diversification & Irrigation at National Workshop in Odisha





**Bhubaneswar, August 17:**

Dr. Sunil Chauhan, Project Director, Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project-II, JICA-ODA, Hamirpur, presented the experience of Himachal Pradesh in crop diversification and irrigation development at a national workshop on "Harnessing Digital Technologies for Smart Irrigation and Demand-Driven Water Management" organised by the Department of Water Resources, Government of Odisha, in collaboration with JICA and Nippon Koei.

The one-day workshop brought together senior government officials, technical experts, development partners and sector specialists to deliberate on modern approaches to irrigation service delivery, water-use efficiency, climate-resilient agriculture, participatory water management and the application of digital technologies.

The objective of the workshop was to provide a platform for policy dialogue, technical exchange and identification of practical pathways for demand-responsive irrigation and technology-enabled water governance. Dr. Sunil Chauhan's presentation was during the Technical Session on "Climate-Resilient Irrigation, Agriculture- Water Convergence & Livelihood Enhancement."

His presentation brought the Himachal Pradesh experience of JICA-Assisted irrigation and crop diversification Project into the wider national and international discourse on integrated water management. According to him, the project's approach provides an important example of linking irrigation development with crop diversification and farmer-oriented agricultural development—an approach that is closely aligned with the workshop's emphasis on connecting water availability, crop planning, field-level demand, farmer institutions and technology-enabled decision-making.

The workshop emphasised that the next phase of irrigation transformation requires closer alignment between water availability, crop planning, field-level demand, farmer institutions and digital information systems. It also identified climate-resilient agriculture, improved crop-water planning, micro-irrigation and field-level advisories as important components of demand-driven water management.

Dr. Chauhan's presentation was part of a



broader exchange of experiences from different parts of the country and abroad. The technical sessions also covered climate-resilient irrigation and farmer-centred water management in Odisha, JICA's assistance to India's agriculture and irrigation sectors, drip irrigation and crop diversification in Jharkhand, the Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project, and international experiences from Japan and Indonesia in Digital Transformation for water management.

The subsequent technical session focused on data-driven flood and watershed management and technology integration for smart irrigation and demand-driven water management, further reinforcing the workshop's central theme of using digital technologies and real-time information for efficient and responsive water management. The workshop concluded with deliberations on key recommendations and the way forward, with emphasis on developing practical approaches for integrated irrigation, demand-driven water management and technology-enabled water governance.

Dr. Sunil Chauhan's presentation provides a comprehensive overview of Himachal Pradesh's agricultural development context, beginning with the State's land use pattern, unique agro-climatic advantages, key challenges, and strategic drivers of economic growth. It highlights the role of JICA-ODA in supporting agricultural development and presents the objectives, progress, and implementation framework of the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project-II. The presentation further explains the planning and execution of the project through its major components—Infrastructure Development, Farmers Support, Value Chain and Market Development, and IEC approaches—while emphasizing the measures adopted to ensure effective implementation, transparency, and sustainable benefits for farming communities.