HIMACHAL PRADESH
JICA AGRICULTURE PROJECT-II
SPECIAL DIARY
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Dr. Sunil Chauhan Reviews Project Activities in Kullu

*Emphasises Revival of Traditional Watermills at FIS Falatnallah, Inspects Proposed Trout Fish Farming Site





Kullu, October 23: Dr. Sunil Chauhan, Project Director of the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project-II (HPCDP-II), JICA-ODA, today inspected various project activities being implemented under the Block Project Management Unit (BPMU), Kullu. During the visit, he interacted with beneficiary farmers and assessed opportunities to enhance their income through agriculture and allied activities.

Dr. Ashish Anand and Dr. Anu Yadav, Subject Matter Specialists, and Mrs. Neetika, Senior Marketing Officer, from the State Project Management Unit (SPMU), Hamirpur, accompanied him during the inspection.

Dr. Chauhan and his team visited the Falatnallah Flow Irrigation Scheme and the under-construction Shirar Sauni Pul to Rauda Seri Flow Irrigation Scheme. At both sites, they held detailed discussions with the concerned officials and technical staff regarding the progress of the schemes, construction activities and the irrigation facilities expected to benefit local farmers.

At Falatnallah, Dr. Chauhan interacted with farmers benefiting from the flow irrigation scheme and gathered information about its construction and the availability of irrigation water for their agricultural fields. Special emphasis was laid on the possibility of reviving old gharats (traditional watermills) located in the area. He discussed various aspects of restoring these traditional watermills by making appropriate use of available water resources. The initiative could help generate local self-employment opportunities while preserving the region's traditional heritage and promoting the sustainable use of local resources.



The Project Director also inspected the proposed site for trout fish farming at Falatnallah and assessed its suitability and potential for the activity. He emphasised the need to make better use of the region's natural resources to enhance farmers' income and encourage livelihood opportunities beyond conventional agriculture.

During the inspection of the under-construction Shirar Sauni Pul to Rauda Seri Flow Irrigation Scheme in Shirar village, Dr. Chauhan examined the project drawings and construction-related records with the concerned officials and technical personnel. He reviewed the progress of the work and discussed various technical aspects of the scheme. He stressed that construction should be completed in accordance with the prescribed quality standards to ensure that farmers receive reliable irrigation facilities upon completion. Improved irrigation access is expected to support agricultural production and contribute to higher farm incomes in the area.

The visit was attended by Dr. Hem Raj Verma, District Project Manager, and Dr. Khoob Ram Thakur, Subject Matter Specialist, from the District Project Management Unit (DPMU), Mandi; Dr. Jayant Ratna, Block Project Manager, Kullu; Mr. Bharat Bhushan, Construction Engineer; Mrs. Monika Saini, Agriculture Extension Officer; and Mr. Sahil Bhardwaj, Supervisor. Mr. Saurabh, Construction Engineer, from DPMU Mandi, and Mr. Sudarshan Suryawanshi, Dr. Nardev Thakur and Mr. Trishan Purohit from PMC Hamirpur were also present.

The inspection reaffirmed the project's focus on strengthening irrigation infrastructure, promoting allied livelihood activities, preserving traditional resource-based practices and improving the economic prospects of farming communities in Himachal Pradesh.