HIMACHAL PRADESH JICA AGRICULTURE PROJECT-II

SPECIAL DIARY

HAMIRPUR: 24 OCTOBER , 2026

Dr. Sunil Chauhan Inspects Mayur Kuhal Gamur in Lahaul and Spiti District

*Emphasises Production, Collection, Processing and Marketing of Sea Buckthorn





Lahaul - Spiti, October 23: Dr. Sunil Chauhan, Project Director of the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project-II, JICA-ODA, inspected the Mayur Kuhal Gamur gravity irrigation scheme in Lahaul and Spiti district. During the visit, he reviewed the irrigation infrastructure developed under the scheme, the ongoing construction works and the irrigation facilities being provided to farmers. He also obtained detailed information from the concerned officers and technical staff regarding the current status of the scheme, its technical aspects and the farming families benefiting from it.

During the inspection, Dr. Chauhan held discussions with the officials on the judicious utilisation of water resources, the functioning of the irrigation system and the delivery of water to agricultural fields. He emphasised the effective utilisation of irrigation facilities, adherence to prescribed quality standards in construction works and proper maintenance of the irrigation system to ensure that farmers continue to benefit from the scheme over the long term.

Emphasis on Commercial Development and Marketing of Sea Buckthorn The Project Director held detailed discussions with beneficiaries and local residents associated with sea buckthorn cultivation and related activities in the Mayur Kuhal Gamur area. He gathered information about sea buckthorn production, collection, processing and the existing marketing arrangements. He also listened to the problems and challenges faced by the beneficiaries and explored opportunities to increase market demand for sea buckthorn products, expand marketing operations and facilitate access to a wider range of markets.

Dr. Chauhan emphasised the need to develop this activity on a commercial scale, maintain product quality, promote value addition and connect producers with better marketing channels. He stated that the judicious utilisation and effective marketing of locally available produce such as sea buckthorn could play an important role in generating additional income and self-employment opportunities for the people of the region. He



stressed the need to streamline the entire process, from production to marketing, and explore possible support mechanisms to expand this activity. Irrigation Facilities to Promote Crop Diversification.

The Project Director also emphasised the importance of promoting agricultural activities in the region and encouraging farmers to adopt crop diversification. He observed that improved irrigation facilities would create opportunities for farmers to cultivate cash crops and high-value crops alongside traditional crops. This would help increase agricultural production, improve the utilisation of available natural resources and enhance farmers' income potential.

He advised the concerned officials to maintain continuous focus on the operational efficiency of irrigation schemes, construction quality and regular maintenance so that farmers could effectively benefit from the infrastructure developed under the project.

During the visit Dr. Ashish Anand and Dr. Anu Yadav, Subject Matter Specialists, and Mrs. Nitika Soni, Senior Marketing Officer from the State Project Management Unit (SPMU), Hamirpur, were also present. The District Project Management Unit (DPMU), Mandi, was represented by Dr. Hem Raj Verma, District Project Manager, and Dr. Khoob Ram Thakur, Subject Matter Specialist. while Dr. Jayant Ratna, Block Project Manager -Kullu, Mr. Bharat Bhushan, Construction Engineer; Mr. Sanjay Kumar and Mr. Himanshu Thakur, Agriculture Officers; Mr. Shivankit Dhiman, Junior Engineer; Mr. Manmohan and Mrs. Monika Saini, Agriculture Extension Officers; and Mr. Sahil Bhardwaj, Supervisor. Mr. Saurabh, Construction Engineer from DPMU, Mandi also accopnaied the visiting dignitaries. Mr. Sudarshan Suryavanshi, Mr. Nardev Thakur and Mr. Trishan Purohit from the Project Management Consultancy (PMC), Hamirpur, were also present on the occasion.