

Advisory to farmers during lockdown due to COVID 19

A letter from ICAR addressed to farmers on farming issues of immediate interest and attention has been issued and widely circulated to all States & UTs.

As a follow up to this letter, the National level agro-advisory was prepared by ICAR and has been issued to farmers to cope during the lockdown period due to COVID 19 mainly dovetailing the safety measures with current farming operations such as harvesting, post-harvest, storage and marketing along with timely measures in standing field and horticultural crops.

General precautions and safety measures in harvesting, post-harvest operations, storage and marketing of produce

In order to avoid the field level contagious spread of Corona virus in agrarian activities, farmers are advised to follow the following precautions:

- In case of manual field operations of harvesting/ picking, accomplish the operation in 4-5 feet spaced strips assigning one strip to one person. This will ensure adequate spacing between the engaged labour.
- All the persons engaged should use masks and ensure hand washing with soap at reasonable intervals.
- Maintain safe distance of 3-4 feet during rest, taking of meals, transfer of produce at collection point, loading/unloading.
- Stagger the field operations wherever possible and avoid engaging more number of persons on the same day.
- Engage only the healthy persons to the extent possible and after reasonable enquiry as to avoid the entry of any suspect or likely carrier during field activity.
- Prefer mechanized operations over the manual ones wherever feasible for which the farmers can avail the services of Custom Hiring Centres in their vicinity. Only the essential number of persons should be allowed to accompany the machine.
- All machines should be sanitized at the entry point and at regular intervals. All transport vehicles, gunny bags or other packaging material should also be sanitized.
- The collection of the produce may be done in small heaps spaced at 3-4 feet and field level processing should be assigned to 1-2 persons per heap to avoid crowding.
- In case the farm level storage is possible, avoid immediate rush to the market.
- Follow the standard safety measures during the visit to market for the purchase of inputs/sale of produce.

Sd/-

(Daisy Bhan)

Joint Director of Agriculture
(Extension), Jammu