

Farmers Training on “On farm handling and packaging of horticultural produce” organized at KVK Sangrur by ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana

A Farmers training on “On farm handling and packaging of horticultural produce” was conducted at KVK, Sangrur on 27 Dec. 2022 with 30 farmers and 11 trainee students under the Farmer FIRST Project, ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana. Dr. Mandeep Singh (Associate Director, KVK, Sangrur) briefed about importance of preservation and processing of horticultural crops to enhance shelf life, extent of post-harvest losses, cold-storage facilities, entrepreneurship opportunities in horticultural sector, training and skill development facilities at ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana etc. Dr. Rahul K. Anurag (S. Scientist & Co-PI, FFP) and other project team members discussed with farmers on some techniques used in handling and packaging of horticultural crops. The FFP team discussed with farmers about extent of post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables, preservation and pre-treatments methods, low cost storage structures, cold storage transport vans, modified atmospheric packaging for enhancing shelf life, etc. Dr. Rahul K. Anurag also gave lecture on packaging and minimal processing of horticultural produce. The team also elaborated important aspects of temperature and relative humidity management during storage. The FFP team also gave live demonstration of nitrogen band sealer and cling wrapping machines on packaging of vegetables (cauliflower, peas, mushroom, capsicum). They were also shown different type of flexible and rigid packaging materials for packaging of different type of horticultural crops. The team also encouraged the farmers to start selling of packed vegetables in retail market rather than selling to traders in bulk quantity.

