

## CROP CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME- INNOVATION IN HARYANA

**In a nutshell:** A programme for building post-harvest management infrastructure for horticulture produce in Haryana

**Nodal agency:** Department of Horticulture, Government of Haryana

Under the aegis of the Horticulture Department of Haryana, the Crop Cluster Development Programme aims to provide on-farm facility to farmers for proper aggregation of produce and its grading/sorting, transportation, processing of surplus produce during the glut period. It aims to ensure farm sustainability by developing farmer socio-economic security model in the villages.

Around 400 horticulture potential clusters are marked and 683 FPOs are formed in the state to cater to the needs of farmers and horticulture producers. 140 integrated pack houses are established in 140 clusters with the financial support of government. Each integrated pack house is equipped with collection centres, grading/packing/cold room facilities, primary processing unit, retail outlets, waste management and solar power, vehicles for transportation, and E-platform/ market portal.



An Integrated Pack House

Only Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) registered under Companies Act in India are eligible for submission of project proposal for crop cluster center and for availing assistance under the scheme. Any organization which has availed assistance from any government agency for similar project shall not be considered eligible for assistance.

## Impact

To analyze the impact of the programme, a study of 2 Integrated Pack Houses was conducted. The following were the observations:

- Direct purchase and marketing of produce in the project area- contract farming was observed for some fruits and vegetables
- Increase in direct income of farmers – improved market access resulted in better price realization for farmers.
- Reduction in the post-harvest losses and availability of better-quality produce due to cold chains
- Increase in agricultural productivity due to strengthening of crop and produce management practices.

## Challenges

- The project required professional services for effective market linkages and FPOs do not have such professionals. So, support of government was required for the sustainability of the project.
- In most of the clusters, the project is based on the seasonal crops, therefore, it is very hard to utilize the facilities around the year. Due to this reason, FPOs face issues in managing the expenditure during off-season period.

## Rewards and recognition

The program was rewarded with Best State Agri-business Award & SKOCH Award in 2022-23.

## Scale-up

This program will be scaled up with the establishment of 500 more Integrated Pack Houses in all the clusters in Haryana. The Government of India has considered this project in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with a total cost of Rs.3796 crore, with JICA offering a loan of Rs. 2600 crore.

The State Government is also going to establish Haryana – UK Centre of Excellence on Crop Post Harvest Management and Sustainable Cold Chain for development and transfer of post-harvest technologies.



Sorting of Potatoes in a Pack House