

Green house technology best suited for Punjab

Sarbjit Dhaliwal
Tribune News Service

Chandigarh, November 17

Punjab is a fit place to grow high quality coloured capsicum, vegetables, flowers tomato and etal around the year under controlled temperature conditions.

Bitman, an Israeli expert told The Tribune after visiting various parts of the state and interacting with the senior officers and farm experts.

Bitman had come here on the invitation of Mohammad Mushtaq, a farm expert engaged in promoting green house farming in Himachal Pradesh and Rajiv Roy, a Banglore based promoter of green house technology.

"The soil conditions are good. Water quality is fine. Best quality vegetables which fetch high value in the national and international market can be grown in Punjab for 10 months in a year," said Bitman.

Sowing of vegetables and plantation of flowers could be adjusted keeping in mind the prevailing climatic conditions, he added. Two months-June and July- when temperature remains very high are not conducive for vegetables etal having softer plants.

As Punjab has been trying hard for diversification, growing high value vegetables and flowers is the best option for it.

Sarup Singh Dhillon, secretary, Agriculture, Punjab, Dr G.S. Kalkat, chairman, Farmers Commission and cooperation minister, Capt Kanwaljit Singh has urged Mushtaq and Roy to give the detailed report on the economics of growing vegetables, flowers etal and expenditure involved on the green house technology.

Under the National Horticulture Mission, Punjab had sanctioned Rs 178 crore to promote horticulture in the state. Under the mission proposals, there was a special scheme to promote green house technology. Roy, who was in Israel to gain expertise in green house technology, says green house can be established on 4000 square meter area with an approximate cost of Rs 35 lakh.

It includes plantation of vegetables also. However, for growing flowers, it cost Rs 40 lakh. In a year, one can recover the cost of green house, he adds.

Mushtaq says farmers in Himachal Pradesh have adopted the green house technology in a successful way.



ADMINISTRATION