

# INDIA'S CLEAN PLANT PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to Our Inaugural Issue!

Welcome to the first edition of the India's Clean Plant Program Newsletter! As part of our ongoing efforts to sustain healthy, profitable, and productive specialty fruit crops, we are thrilled to connect with you, our stakeholders and the public. This newsletter will serve as a bridge to share crucial updates, success stories, and resources while addressing the challenges and opportunities within our initiative.

## Program Highlights and Milestones

### A Strong Foundation:

On 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the Clean Plant Program (CPP), an initiative proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW). This program was developed in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) over a two-year period. The process began with the first consultation in July, 2022, followed by an international workshop on the Clean Plant Program held in New Delhi in January, 2023. The workshop focused on creating a framework for introducing clean planting material to mitigate environmental and economic losses. Over 70 stakeholders, including experts from Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, and the USA, participated to identify the most suitable model for India.



Image caption: The first ADB consultation workshop, held on 6–7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in New Delhi, addressed current practices and gaps in planting material management.



Image caption: The workshop, jointly organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, National Horticulture Board and Asian Development Bank on 30–31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

The program was conceptualized through a series of meetings with key stakeholders and study visits to draw from international best practices. In December 2023, the ADB Board approved a loan of \$98 million, contributing to a total project cost of \$196 million (approximately ₹1,765.67 crore). Following the Union Cabinet's approval in August 2024, the government and ADB signed the agreement on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024, paving the way for Indian farmers to access certified disease-free planting materials.

## Together in Action:

In December 2024, the Clean Plant Program (CPP) inception mission brought together stakeholders from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and Asian Development Bank (ADB) team to discuss the annual work plan, budget, and strategies to expedite project implementation. The meeting also addressed the overall development of the clean plant program, establishment of clean plant centers (CPCs), capacity building, and hazard analysis. These discussions are crucial in shaping the roadmap for developing clean plant centers and strengthening our capacity to better support India's horticulture sector.



Image caption: Stakeholders from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and Asian Development Bank (ADB) team during the CPP inception mission in December 2024 to discuss plans for Clean Plant Program development.

## On the Ground: Actions and Insights

### Clean Plant Program (CPP) Kick-off Workshop and Website Launch: An Event Not to Miss!

Get ready for the inaugural CPP workshop, where exciting milestones await! We're launching the official CPP website - a hub for resources, updates, and insights to revolutionize horticulture in India.

This workshop will also host a special nursery consultation on nursery stock certification, bringing together scientists, nursery operators, and farmers to shape the future of clean, virus-free planting materials.

Join us as we collaborate to build a healthier, more productive horticulture sector and unlock new opportunities for growth and innovation.

Don't miss this chance to be part of the change!

### Hazard Analysis (HA):

Hazard analysis is vital for identifying and profiling viruses and virus-like agents, forming the foundation of the Clean Plant Program's certification system and the Clean Plant Centers.

**Grapevine:** Surveys conducted by ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and ICAR-National Research Center for Grapes, Pune collected 578 samples from key grape-growing regions, including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, and Mizoram. Testing has been completed, finalizing the hazard analysis for grapevine.

**Apple:** With 535 samples collected from major pome fruit regions, including J&K, HP, UK, and Punjab, hazard analysis for apple is well underway.

**Citrus:** We're gearing up to kick-start hazard analysis for citrus, our next target crop, paving the way for healthier, virus-free citrus cultivation.

## Designing India's First Clean Plant Center: A Game-Changer for Horticulture

India's first Clean Plant Center is becoming a reality!

The bidding process for its design is currently underway, marking a major step towards building a clean plant system that will support the growth and sustainability of India's horticulture sector. This center will bring healthier, virus-free crops to farmers and consumers across the nation.

The future of horticulture is bright, and you can be part of this exciting transformation!

### Nursery visits: Exploring Regional Horticultural Practices

On October 23-24, 2024, officers from the National Horticulture Board (NHB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) embarked on visits to grape, pomegranate and guava nurseries in the Nashik and Ahmednagar districts of Maharashtra. Their objective was to explore and understand various aspects of the nursery ecosystems, including their design, operational components, practices, sizing, and cost structures.



Image Caption: Team members during their visit to a nursery in Maharashtra, where they assessed the various aspects of nursery ecosystems.

Similarly, on November 18-22, 2024, the same team of officers continued their evaluation tour to Jammu & Kashmir, focusing on nurseries that cultivate apple and temperate crops. These visits aimed to gain insights into the specific agricultural practices and challenges faced in cooler climates.



Image Caption: Team members during their visit to a nursery in Jammu & Kashmir, where they assessed the cultivation techniques and challenges of growing temperate fruit crops.

## Lab Assessments: Strengthening of diagnostic and computational capabilities

Visits to the public and private laboratories across the country were conducted by Scientists and officials from ICAR, NHB and ADB on 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. These visits evaluated laboratory capabilities to develop bioinformatics pipeline for HTS data analysis under CPP. The assessments were conducted under the guidance of Prof. Ioannis Tzanetakis, Director of the Arkansas Clean Plant Center, USA. This will accelerate and broaden the scope of hazard analysis for other crops, as well as enhance nursery sample testing efforts.



Image caption: Team members at the Advanced Supercomputing Hub for Omics Knowledge in Agriculture (ASHOKA), Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), New Delhi during their assessment tour. This visit highlighted our commitment to integrating cutting-edge technology in our diagnostics processes.

## What's Next?

- More consultation with nurseries to develop nursery stock certification and its roll-out
- Training program development for relevant authorities and stakeholders
- Hazard analysis protocol prepared for citrus
- Development of diagnostic protocols for mango, guava, litchi, avocado and dragon fruit.
- Matching grants and cost norm guidelines preparation for nurseries.

## Join Us on This Journey

Your involvement is crucial to our success. Stay tuned for updates, participate in our upcoming events, and let's pave the way to a healthier future for Indian agriculture together.

Don't miss this chance to be part of the change

## Get in Touch!

Have questions or suggestions? Please contact us at [cppnhb-india@gov.in](mailto:cppnhb-india@gov.in) or visit our website at <https://cpp.nhb.gov.in> for more information.



For more information visit us

Thank you for reading the India's Clean Plant Program Newsletter. Don't forget to subscribe for the latest updates and share this newsletter with peers who might be interested!



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