

REPORT ON PROGRESS OF FARM ACTIVITIES AT ICARP-DMAPR

MARCH-APRIL, 2020

1. Advisory on Hygiene awareness for farming operations

- Due to pandemic spread of COVID 19, the Government of India has ordered a nationwide lockdown/curfew for its effective containment. However, guidelines/exemptions applicable for farmers and farming sector during lockdown/curfew period have been issued so that famers can continue farming operation and harvesting of crops.
- Farmers are advised to follow strictly the guidelines for stopping the spread of COVID 19 during any farming operations.
- Some of the important points to be followed are (1) Frequent cleaning of hand using soap or any disinfectant, (2) Keeping distance among the farmers who are engaged in farming operations, (3) use of masks (4) NO exchange small farm implements viz., khurpi, kudat, etc. among the workers, and clean the handles of common equipments using soap solutions before using etc.
- State governments also issued different guidelines to be followed during farming operations in local languages and farmers are advised to follow these guidelines strictly.

2. Advisory to farmers especially on harvesting operations

Isabgol (*Plantago ovata*), Asalio/Chandrasur (*Lepidium sativum*), Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*), Opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*) are the major seasonal rabi medicinal crops having harvesting operation going on or still awaiting, however, recent rains during 3 & 4th week of March 2020 have delayed the harvesting of many crops in North India. The directorate has provided advisory to farmers through its mobile app “HERBAL KISSAN”, WhatsApp message, phone calls, other social medias like email, newspapers, etc. The status of harvesting of some of the MAP species is given below as advisory to farmers: In Gujarat, isabgol, Brahmi, and Asalio are the major medical plants and harvesting have been completed. In Rajasthan, 50% the harvesting was delayed due to the untimely rain and also non availability of labourers due to the lockdown.

In ICAR-DMAPR fields, in the area covering 36 that includes field research experiments, farm fields and herbal garden, all the important field operations (sowing, irrigation, harvesting, etc.) were done following all the precautions measures.

3. Use of Digital Platform

Advisory to farmers for harvesting operations in different medicinal and aromatic plants and hygiene awareness for farming operation in English has been uploaded on Institute website and being up dated time to time. Advisory to farmers

for harvesting operations in different medicinal and aromatic plants and hygiene awareness for farming operation in Hindi has been uploaded on Institute website on 6.4.2020. All the other activities being carried out are also uploaded in the website.



Hand sanitizer prepared and distributed to the COVID-19 Warriors



Herbal packets were distributed to the health workers & volunteers

Field activity by the ICAR-DMAPR staffs



Field operations at ICAR-DMAPR

REPORT ON PROGRESS OF FARM ACTIVITIES AT AICRP MAP&B DURING MARCH-APRIL, 2020

Due to pandemic spread of COVID 19, the Government of India has ordered a nationwide lockdown/curfew for its effective containment. Guidelines/exemptions have also been issued by the Government so that farming operations and harvesting of crops can be completed unhindered. However, in some states, the restrictions are too stringent and **some of the AICRP centres have reported their inability to attend the experimental farm even for primary activities like irrigation, etc.**

March- April months being the harvesting month of majority of the rabi sown crops viz., asalio, isabgol, opium poppy, ashwagandha, the AICRP MAP&B centres reported the progress of harvesting and other field experiments as follows:

Harvesting:

- Harvesting is completed in isabgol and asalio in all the centres (AAU, Anand; MPUAT, Udaipur; RVSKVV, Mandasaur; NDUAT, Faizabad; PDKV, Akola) except at JNKVV, Jabalpur where they will harvest it by the end of this month.
- Opium poppy harvesting is over at MPUAT, Udaipur and RVSKVV, Mandasaur and at NDUAT, Faizabad harvesting will be completed after the spot instruction of personnel from Narcotics Department.
- Ashwagandha will be harvested by the end of April or by May month.
- At UBKV, Kalimpong, harvesting of chirayita and valerian will be in May.
- Harvesting of mucuna was completed at IIHR, Bengaluru; BAU, Ranchi; IGKV, Raipur.
- Satavari will be harvested in the month of May at PDKV, Akola
- Field data recording was completed in all these crops and post-harvest data including chemical analysis are pending in all these crops.
- **All the centres have reported that precautionary measures were adopted by the labourers during all the farm operations as per the Government guidelines**

Other field activities:

Sl. No.	Centre name	Activities
1.	BAU, Ranchi	Field maintenance of MAP germplasm; Crop production experiments are going on. Planting material of <i>Tinospora</i> are ready for distribution among the farmers
2.	AAU, Anand	Field maintenance of germplasm of MAP, MLTs and other experiments in Crop production are going on.
3.	OUAT, Bhubaneswar	Field maintenance of germplasm of MAP, MLT on long pepper and other experiments in Crop production and Crop Protection are going on. Harvesting and data recording completed in long pepper and kalmegh. Long pepper spike samples were sent for analysis to KAU, Trichur.
4.	IIHR, Bengaluru	Field maintenance of germplasm of MAP, MLT on Betelvine and other experiments are going on.

5.	BAU, Islampur	Crop production experiments are at different stages of progress Mentha is ready for transplanting
6.	PDKV, Akola	Nursery of MAP and summer trials are also under progress.
7.	TNAU, Coimbatore	Post-harvest data are yet to be taken in Senna and <i>Gloriosa superba</i> All seasonal data in experiments of Crop protection are completed
8.	KAU, Trichur	Field maintenance of germplasm of MAP and other experiments in Crop production and Phytochemistry are going on. FLDs in long pepper, asoka and chitrak are under progress
9.	JNKVV, Jabalpur	Field maintenance of germplasm of MAP and other experiments in Crop production and Crop Protection is going on.
10.	UBKV, Kalimpong	Seedlings of chirayita and valerian are ready for transplanting in June-July.
11.	YSRHU, Venkataramannagudem	Field maintenance of germplasm of MAP, MLTs and other experiments in Crop production and Crop Protection is going on.
12.	YSRHU, Solan	Field maintenance of germplasm of MAP, MLTs and other experiments in Crop production is going on.

Extension activities

- IGKV, Raipur centre connected farmers' communities through whatsapp group and telephonic conversation and necessary suggestions were given to the farmers under COVID19 situation.
- YSPUHF, Solan has prepared hand sanitizers fortified with herbal compounds and distributed to about 500 beneficiaries.
- BAU, Islampur extended technical support to farmers for cultivation of mentha
- MPUAT, Udaipur provided face masks and gloves to farmers





Transplanting of Mentha in the field of farmer as per guideline maintaining social distancing during lock down period at Bihar



Safety guards providing to farmers



Harvesting of opium popping keeping social distance in Udaipur