



# INDIA'S CLEAN PLANT PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to the Second Issue of India's Clean Plant Program Newsletter!

As we continue our mission to revolutionize India's horticulture landscape, we're excited to bring you the latest developments from the Clean Plant Program (CPP). Since our inaugural issue, significant progress has been made from advancing the establishment of Clean Plant Centers to deepening our engagement with nurseries and laboratories across the country. This issue highlights the collaborative spirit, technological strides, and future-focused strategies that are shaping a more resilient, disease-free future for Indian specialty crops. Join us as we build on our momentum and take the next bold steps together.

## Event Highlights and Milestones

### Laying the Foundation for Future-Ready Planting Material

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the first official meeting on planting material estimation for grapes was convened at ICAR-National Research Center for Grapes (NRCG), Pune, bringing together scientists for Clean Plant Centers, officials from National Horticulture Board (NHB), Asian Development Board (ADB), and nursery stakeholders. The team assessed demand forecasts for the future, varietal recommendations, and structured propagation plans to meet the requirement for high-quality grapevines. Insights from the unorganized nursery sector and data on mortality rates were also taken into account, providing a comprehensive roadmap for disease-free and sustainable production planning.



Image caption: Strategic Estimation for Future-Ready Clean Planting Material: Clean Plant Program Sets the Groundwork with Grape Nurseries

### Site Readiness Assessment for Clean Plant Centers at Malda

On 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025, a joint team comprising representatives from NHB, ADB, and ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) conducted an inspection visit to the Regional Station at Malda, West Bengal, to assess its suitability as a potential site for establishing a Clean Plant Center under the India's Clean Plant Program (CPP).



Image caption: NHB, ADB, and CISH teams during the site inspection at RS, Malda to evaluate infrastructure and readiness for establishing a Clean Plant Center for mango and other tropical fruits.

## Strengthening the Program Framework

On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025, a review meeting was held at ICAR-NASC Complex, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director General (Horticultural Science) to assess key components of the Clean Plant Program. Senior officials reviewed the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and the Project Administrative Manual (PAM), focusing on the design of containment facilities, budget allocation, and manpower planning. The meeting also discussed the finalization of the Financial and Procurement Manuals, marking a major milestone in strengthening the program's operational and financial framework.



Image caption: Stakeholders and senior officials during the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025 meeting at ICAR, NASC Complex, New Delhi to finalize key documents and strategies under the Clean Plant Program.

## Nursery Stakeholder Consultation in Pomegranate

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025, a Nursery Stakeholder Consultation was held at ICAR-National Research Center for Pomegranate (NRCP), Solapur, focusing on the propagation of disease-free pomegranate planting material under the Clean Plant Program. The meeting showcased clean plant technologies such as in vitro propagation, sanitation, and bio-hardening, and discussed strategies to strengthen the supply chain for certified saplings. With India's increasing annual demand, stakeholders emphasized the importance of certified planting material in enhancing productivity and export potential.



Image caption: NHB-CPP team and nursery stakeholders at ICAR-NRCP, Solapur discussing clean plant technologies for high-quality, export-ready pomegranate production.

## Promoting Clean Mango Planting Material

On 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025, the NHB-CPP team visited the Centre of Excellence for Mango at DBSKKV, Dapoli, Maharashtra to review its achievements in orchard rejuvenation and nursery management. The center has rejuvenated over 5,000 hectares and trained 10,000+ farmers, establishing itself as an important collaborator under the CPP. Discussions focused on integrating nursery accreditation and farmer training into the program to strengthen clean mango planting initiatives.



Image caption: NHB-CPP team during their visit to DBSKKV, Dapoli.



## Building a Science-Based Nursery Certification System

From 27-29<sup>th</sup> August 2025, an online consultation was held with nursery stakeholders and CPC staff to deliberate on Nursery Stock Certification and the way forward under the Clean Plant Program. The session provided a platform to share suggestions, clarify queries, and discuss the program's objectives and role in strengthening the nursery sector. This engagement helped to build mutual understanding and outlined next steps toward developing a robust, science-based certification system to safeguard plant health and promote sustainable horticulture growth in India.



Image caption: Discussions on overall consultation on Nursery Stock Certification

## Site Readiness Assessment for Clean Plant Center at Bikaner

One day site inspection visit was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2025 to assess suitability of land for establishment of Clean Plant Centre (CPC) at Bikaner with state-of-the-art facility dedicated to facilitate production of virus and disease-free planting material for Citrus.



Image Caption: NHB, ADB, and CIAH teams during the site inspection at ICAR- Central Institute for Arid Horticulture (CIAH), Bikaner to evaluate site for establishing a Clean Plant Center for citrus.

## Collaborative Nursery Pilot Study for Grapes

Nursery Pilot Study from 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2025 were undertaken by officials from NHB and IARI, along with NRCG, to collect plant and soil samples from nurseries for Systemic Pathogen Risk Analysis (SPRA) and nematode analysis. The study aims to identify potential hazard at grape nurseries and outcome from this study will be base for nursery certification under CPP.



Image caption: NHB, IARI and NRCG teams during the sample collection at grape nurseries in Maharashtra



## Discussions on Lab and building design at CPC for Grapes, Pune

On 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025, a visit to NRCG, Pune, was undertaken with the NHB team, along with the design and architectural firm team, to seek inputs from the NRCG team regarding laboratory and building design for the CPC grapes at Pune.



Image caption: NHB and Design & Architectural firm Team Discussion with NRCG Team on Laboratory and Building Design for CPC (Grapes) at Pune.

## Containment Facility Site Visits

Under the Clean Plant Program, visits were conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to CPC Pune (grapes) and CPC Mukteshwar (apple and temperate fruits). Teams from NHB and ADB, along with Mr. Rob Kerslake, assessed site suitability and key technical requirements for designing secure and efficient containment facilities.



Image caption: Discussions on site suitability for containment facility development at CPC in Pune



Image caption: Discussions on site suitability for containment facility development at CPCs in Mukteshwar

## A new chapter in Indo-US horticulture collaboration!

On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025, MD, National Horticulture Board & Joint Secretary Horticulture, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India; Shri Priya Ranjan and J F Meullenet, the Sr. Associate Vice President of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture signed an MoU to advance technology exchange, diagnostics, capacity building, and training under the Clean Plant framework.



Image caption: Strengthening Indo-US cooperation in horticulture: Shri Priya Ranjan and J F Meullenet sign an MoU to strengthen India's clean plant program and capacity building



## USA Visit on Clean Plant Center & Nursery Certification

An Indian delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture, NHB, and ICAR visited the USA from 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> November 2025. The team visited Clean Plant Centers in Arkansas, commercial nurseries and North Carolina to understand the workflow of the U.S. Clean Plant Program and nursery certification system. The visit provided valuable insights to strengthen similar initiatives in India.



Image caption: Delegates from MoA&FW, NHB, and ICAR visiting U.S. Clean Plant facility in Arkansas, USA



Image caption: Field visit by the Indian delegation to Fall creek farm and Nursery, an international blueberry breeding and nursery company at Lowell, Oregon, USA



Image caption: Delegates from MoA&FW, NHB, and ICAR visiting U.S. Clean Plant facility in North Carolina State, USA



## Diagnostic Laboratory Assessment for Nursery Certification

To identify potential diagnostic laboratories that can support the Nursery Certification System under the Clean Plant Program, visits were undertaken from 24-27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to leading research and diagnostic institutions, including NABI Chandigarh, VSI Pune and SKUAST Srinagar. The visits were carried out by teams from NHB, IARI and ADB, guided by international experts, to assess the diagnostic capacity, infrastructure, and readiness of these laboratories to play a critical role in the certification process.



Image caption: Technical visit to VSI, Pune laboratories for evaluating diagnostic support under CPP



Image caption: Team assessing diagnostic facilities at NABI, Chandigarh under the CPP



Image caption: Visit to SKUAST, Srinagar to evaluate diagnostic laboratory readiness for Nursery Certification

A wrap-up meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the ADB Office, New Delhi, to consolidate findings from the containment facility site assessments and diagnostic lab evaluations. Teams from NHB, ICAR, IARI, and ADB discussed the proposed containment facility and laboratory building designs, along with the suitability of potential diagnostic labs for supporting the Nursery Certification framework.



Image caption: Wrap-up meeting at ADB, New Delhi to discuss containment facility design and diagnostic lab assessments

## What's Next?

- ❖ Systemic Pathogen Risk Analysis for Pomegranate and for other crops will be initiated.
- ❖ Diagnostic Laboratory identification for Nursery Certification
- ❖ Firming up of design and construction of lab and building for clean plant centers and NHB-CPP building along with award of tender
- ❖ Firming up of design and construction of containment facility and greenhouse at clean plant centers and award of tender
- ❖ Training programs for stakeholders on the overall functioning and operations of Clean Plant Centers.
- ❖ Inaugural workshop of the Clean Plant Program and launch of the CPP website.

## 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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ICAR

