



## **Report of PRAKRITI programme**

(February 20, 2025)

ICFRE-HFRI, Shimla in collaboration with Government Senior Secondary School (Girls), Mandi, H.P. organized PRAKRITI programme on February 20, 2025 at Mandi. In this programme 150 students along with Principal Sh. Anil Kumar and Sh. Pawan Kumar, Lecturer of Commerce and other teaching staff also participated.

At the onset of the programme Sh. Anil Kumar, welcomed resource person Dr. Pawan Kumar, Scientist-F and said that synthetic chemical pesticides had multifarious ill effects on our environment which includes water and soil contamination, loss of beneficial insects like natural enemies of insect pests and honey bees. He also emphasizes that unknowingly our farmers uses higher dose of insecticides for their crop protection from harmful insect pests, resulting in higher toxicity in the soil and more residual problems in the crops which ultimately effects the human health. Thus we should adopt safe alternative methods like plant based pesticides, which do not harm beneficial insects and are safe to use, environmental friendly also.

Dr. Pawan Kumar, Scientist-F delivered a talk on Insecticide Pollution, Insect pests and Mitigation strategies. In his opening remarks he told about the harmful insects of forests, nursery and their extent of damage they caused to the trees and plantations. He also briefed the students about the ill effects of synthetic chemical pesticides like soil infertility, water pollution and loss of beneficial insects etc. He explained about natural enemies of insect pests like lady bird beetle, Praying Mantis etc. of our ecosystem and said that they can be applied for protection of crops from harmful insects. He also briefed about the plant based insecticides products like Neem and Pissumar etc. and said that the Institute has also developed 2 plant based formulations viz., HIM BIODIL-I and HIM ALBIWASH which are formulated from native plant *Boenninghausenia albiflora*. After the presentation discussion session was held in which students asked their queries. The programme ended with the Vote of Thanks by Sh. Anil Kumar, Principal Govt. Sr. Sc. School (Girls), Mandi, wherein he thanked Director, HFRI Shimla, and resource person from HFRI Shimla, Dr. Pawan Kumar, Scientist-F and all the students. He is of the view point that such type of activities opens new horizon to the students for progression in their career and students can also help to convey messages to their family of using bio-pesticides at their fields thus helping in production of pesticides free crops.

### **Glimpese of Programme**



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