

HORTICULTURE

Secretary(A&C) highlighted the importance of quality planting material in the development of horticulture and directed the State officials to put more and more efforts in this regard.

The progress and future planning under National Horticulture Mission, Micro Irrigation and technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture were among the major schemes came under discussion during and after the presentation made of various States.

In view of the presentation, it was clear that States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and Rajasthan are putting lot of efforts in popularizing the importance and benefits of micro-irrigation.

North Eastern States and hilly States of Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir have made considerable progress in Horticulture sector. However, it was suggested to lay more stress on the Scheme.

The problem of 'Wilt' or 'decline in plant health' has become common in various fruit and other crops and there is need to have separate comprehensive project on research and management of this malady. It was stated by DDG(Crops/Hort.) in response to various questions.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

- **Agricultural Credit** :- The State Governments were impressed upon to monitor the flow of agricultural credit to ensure that all the farmers are covered within institutional credit fold at the earliest.
- **Crop Insurance**:- The State Govt. of Rajasthan raised the issue for settlement of insurance claims for Kharif 2005. It was clarified that the implementing agency has already settled the claims amounting to Rs.190.69 crores for Kharif 2005. The remaining claims amounting to Rs.25.39 crores are pending for want of funds amounting to Rs.25.39 crores from the State Govt. of Rajasthan.
