



Brief Report

“Two Days Training Programme on “Organic Certification of niche crops to enhance their niche value” w.e.f 10th and 11th of September 2025 organized by KVK Shopian at Industrial Training Institute Shopian under HADP-Project-16.

“Organic Certification of niche crops to enhance their niche value”

Venue: Industrial Training Institute Shopian

- Programme Proceedings**

- The two-day Training programme on “Organic Certification of Niche Crops to Enhance Their Value” was organized by KVK Shopian at Industrial Training Institute, Shopian on 10th and 11th September 2025 under the HADP Project. The programme aimed to sensitize students about organic certification, sustainable farming practices, soil health, and the potential of niche crops in gaining premium markets. The event witnessed active participation from students.
- The proceedings begin with welcome address given by Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Head KVK Shopian, who welcomed the guests and participants and aware students about purpose of organizing this valuable programme.

Day One (10-09-2025)		
Speaker	Designation	Topic / Lecture Delivered
Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri	Sr. Scientist and Head KVK Shopian	Organic Certification of niche crops to enhance their niche value in J&K
Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai	SMS PHT	Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for organic certification
Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandit	SMS Fruit Science	Scope of organic Farming in temperate Ecologies
Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad	SMS Animal Science	ITK validated technologies vogue in temperate Kashmir
Dr. Mumtaz Ahmad Ganie	SMS Soil Science	Soil Health under Organic farming

- **Day One (10-09-2025)**

- Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK Shopian, delivered the lead lecture on “Organic Certification of Niche Crops to Enhance Their Value in J&K.” He explained the concept of certification, the step-by-step process involved, and its benefits for marketability and export. He stressed how certification builds consumer trust, ensures traceability, and provides farmers with better price realization.
- Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai, SMS Plant Protection, spoke on “Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for Organic Certification.” He highlighted how PGS works as a farmer-friendly, low-cost certification method. He discussed how farmer groups can self-certify based on peer monitoring, making certification accessible even for small and marginal farmers.
- Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandit, SMS Food Science, gave a talk on “Scope of Organic Farming in Temperate Ecology.” He discussed the suitability of temperate crops such as apples, walnuts, saffron, and vegetables for organic farming. He also highlighted market opportunities for organic produce in domestic and international markets, given the increasing consumer demand for safe, chemical-free food.
- Mir Shabir Ahmad, SMS Animal Science, presented a lecture on “Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) Validated Technologies in Temperate Kashmir.” He shared examples of traditional farming practices that align with organic principles, including herbal remedies for animal health, use of farmyard manure, and locally developed pest-control measures. He emphasized the importance of blending traditional knowledge with modern organic standards.
- Dr. Muntaz Ahmad Ganaie, SMS Soil Science, delivered a session on “Soil Health under Organic Farming.” He explained the role of soil organic matter, compost, green manures, and biofertilizers in maintaining soil fertility. He also demonstrated how organic farming improves soil biodiversity, enhances water-holding capacity, and reduces dependency on chemical fertilizers.

Day Two (11-09-2025)		
Speaker	Designation	Topic / Lecture Delivered
Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri	Sr. Scientist and Head KVK Shopian	Organic Certification in India: Standards and requirements
Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai	SMS PHT	Indian Govt. Policies for promotion of organic food products
Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad	SMS Animal Science	Marketing of organic products: Challenges and opportunities

Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad Dr. Mumtaz Ahmad Ganie	Exposure Visit Hands-on demonstration of composting techniques. Field visit to observe organic farming practices. Visit to a certified organic farm or processing unit. Practical demonstration of organic farming practices and standards compliance.
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• Day Two (11-09-2025)

- Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK Shopian, highlighted the procedures and legal frameworks governing organic certification in India. He explained the importance of adhering to certification norms for ensuring the credibility of organic produce in domestic as well as international markets.
- Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai, SMS Plant Protection, discussed various policies schemes, and incentives introduced by the Government of India to support organic farming and marketing. The session included information on subsidies, export promotion measures, branding and financial support extended to farmers.
- Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad, SMS Animal Science, focused on the commercial aspects of organic farming, identifying key challenges like price, fluctuations, limited market access, certification costs, and consumer awareness.

• Concluding Session.

- The day ended with an interactive session where participants shared feedback and clarified queries regarding certification government schemes, and marketing.
- Exposure Visit as a part of training, an exposure visit was organized to the vermicompost unit at Pulwama.
Participants observed practical demonstrations of organic farming practices.
Training material and material on organic methods were distributed.
Students expressed appreciation for the hands-on learning and showed interest in adopting organic methods on their farms.
- The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad, who acknowledged the contributions of experts, dignitaries, and participants. Students appreciated the efforts of KVK Shopian for organizing such a valuable programme and requested that similar events be conducted regularly

>>Glimpses of the Programme<<



