

Blossoming Horizons CSIR-IHBT's Tulip Garden Pioneers Self-Reliance and Scientific Tourism



Tulip Garden at CSIR-IHBT, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh

THE CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, is leading India's floriculture sector with its innovative tulip garden. As part of the CSIR-Floriculture Mission, this initiative advances sustainable tulip cultivation, promotes domestic bulb production, and establishes the institute as a hub for scientific tourism. By empowering farmers, driving economic growth, and fostering environmental sustainability, CSIR-IHBT is positioning India as a key player in global floriculture while enhancing regional development.

Domestic Bulb Production: A Step Toward Self-Reliance

India's floriculture sector has long depended on imported tulip bulbs, a costly and unsustainable practice. CSIR-IHBT has tackled this challenge head-on by pioneering domestic bulb production. Through experimental trials in the high-altitude regions of Lahaul and Ladakh, the institute has collaborated

with local cooperative societies and MSME clusters to train farmers in tulip cultivation. These efforts have reduced reliance on imports, created alternative income sources for farmers, and positioned Himalayan states as potential leaders in tulip bulb production. A landmark achievement was the supply of 15,000 domestically grown bulbs to the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) for its 2025 Tulip Festival, showcasing India's growing self-sufficiency. Adapting tulip cultivation to India's diverse climates required cutting-edge solutions.

CSIR-IHBT developed controlled environment agriculture, including autonomous greenhouse systems, to achieve early flowering and extend the blooming period. This technology enhances the commercial and aesthetic value of tulips, making them viable for year-round markets. Additionally, research into high-altitude cultivation has unlocked the potential for large-scale tulip farming in the Himalayas, where harsh conditions once posed significant