

Teaching Association SKUAST-J meets HRD Minister



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JAMMU, AUG 20: a delegation of SKUAST-Jammu teaching association led by its President Dr. Vikas Sharma met Union Minister for Human Resource Development Samriti Irani in the presence of Dr. Nirmal Singh (National Executive Member of BJP) and put forth their genuine demand for up gradation of SKUAST-Jammu to Central Agricultural University of Jammu. President SKUAST-TAJ, Dr. Vikas Sharma apprised the Union Minister that Jammu province include 10 districts and SKUAST-Jammu have limited staff and resources, which makes difficult to cater to the needs of farmers in far flung areas of Udhampur (Gool, Mahore, etc.), Doda / Bhaderwah (Chinta, Bhalessa etc.) and Bani (Dandi Kutu, Basohli, Billawar etc.), besides, upper reaches of Rajouri and Poonch districts, which have suffered political as well as developmental alienation since independence.

The farmers of these far flung areas are unable to get the benefit of latest advances in agricultural technologies due to the shortage of sanctioned staff and meager financial resources made available to the State

Agriculture University i.e., SKUAST-Jammu by the State Government, thus, resulting in lower agricultural production and a strong resentment among the farming community leading to hindrances in joining the main stream of Indian polity. Dr. Vikas Sharma further added that there is no Central Agricultural University in the whole Northern India and Jammu division is the most suitable place for the establishment of the same as this region contains all the three agroclimatic zones namely - subtropical, intermediate and temperate (which are not available in any other area of the country), wherein different sets of crops / cash crops, vegetables and fruits are grown during the year. "After getting Central Agriculture University Status, it will come under the direct control of Central Government and this will be a good confidence measure for the people of Jammu, who have struggled a lot for this Agricultural University", said TAJ president.

The Union Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and advised them to meet Union Minister of

Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh and submit a detailed programme regarding the matter as this is a prerogative of Central Agricultural Ministry to prepare a proposal for up gradation of SKUAST-Jammu to Central Agricultural University of Jammu and she is also going to forward their memorandum to the Central Agricultural Minister. Further, the case will be carried out by HRD Ministry.

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