FARM OPERATIONS IN JANUARY

WHEAT

1. Apply second irrigation to wheat sown during November and first irrigation to wheat sown during December. Apply second dose of N with first irrigation to late sown wheat.

2. Manganese deficiency may appear in coarse textured soils, where wheat follows paddy. The middle leaves show interveinal chlorosis with light grayish yellow to pinkish brown colored spots/streaks. If such symptoms are noticed, spray the crop with 0.5 per cent manganese sulphate solution (one kg manganese sulphate in 200 litre of water per acre). Give two to three sprays at weekly interval on sunny days.

3. Sulphur deficiency may appear in wheat grown on sandy soils especially during prolonged winter rains. In this deficiency, the younger leaves turn yellow leaving the tip slightly green. If such symptoms are noticed, broadcast gypsum @ 100 kg per acre.

4. For controlling Gulli Danda in late sown wheat, apply Accord Plus (Fenoxaprop 8%+ 14%) @ 500 ml or Shagun 21-11(metribuzin+ clodinafop)@ 200g /acre at 30-35 days after sowing or Axial (Pinoxaden 5 EC) at 400 ml /acre can also be used and its time of application is also the same. In addition to this, Aim/Affinity 40 DF (Carfentrazone ethyl) at 20 g/acre for controlling broadleaf weeds including Button weeds has been recommended. Spray this herbicide 25-30 days after sowing. Do not spray Accord Plus or Shagun 21-11 on PBW-550 and Unnat PBW-550.

5. Monitor the crop for occurrence of yellow rust in fields especially in submontaneous districts of the state. If symptoms of yellow rust are noticed, spray the crop with Caviet @ 200g or Nativo @ 120g or Opera or Tilt or Shine or Bumper or Stilt or Compass or Markzole @ 200 ml in 200 litres of water per acre.

RAPESEED AND MUSTARD

1. To save the crop from frost damage, apply irrigation.

2. To check aphid damage on raya observe 12-16 widely scattered plants from an acre and if aphid population is above ETH level, spray 40 g Actara 25 WG or 400 ml of Rogor 30 EC or 600 ml Dursban/Coroban 20 EC in 80-125 litres of water per acre. Rogor can also be used to control leaf miner.

3. Avoid irrigation to sarson/raya during 25th December to 15th January to manage Sclerotinia stem rot.

4. For controlling white rust, spray the crop with 250g Ridomil Gold in 100 litres of water per acre when crop is 60 and 80 days old.

SUNFLOWER

The month of January is the optimum time for sowing sunflower. The sowing should preferably be done on ridges facing Southern side. The spacing between rows should be 60 cm and between the plants 30 cm. Apply 24 kg N (50 kg urea) per acre along with 12 kg P₂O₅ (75 kg single superphosphate) at sowing. Prefer single superphosphate as it contains sulphur. In coarse textured soils, use half dose of urea (25 kg) at sowing and other half 30 days after sowing. Drill muriate of potash in soils testing low in available potassium i.e. 40 kg/acre in Hoshiarpur, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Ropar and Gurdaspur districts and 20 kg/acre in all other districts. If the crop follows potato which received farm yard manure (FYM) @ 20 tonnes per acre, apply 25 kg urea. To sunflower following toria, apply 10 tonnes FYM along with
recommended dose of fertilizers. Stomp 30 EC @ 1.0 litre per acre dissolved in 200 litres of water can be used as pre-emergence within 2-3 days for controlling weeds in this crop. When the sowing is likely to be delayed to February, the crop should be raised by transplanting nursery.

**SUGARCANE**
1. Start crushing/harvesting (mill purpose) mid season and late maturing variety which matures at the end of January.
2. Protect the seed crop against frost by giving frequent irrigations. Frost injury results in low germination of sugarcane.
3. Sugarcane crop meant to be ratooned may be harvested as close to the ground as possible to promote better sprouting. Burn the trash immediately.
4. Irrigate the harvested field and plough in between the cane rows to control weeds.
5. The larvae of stalk borer (Tarai borer) overwinter in stubbles/water shoots. The attack can be minimised by collecting the stumps and destroy them and avoid ratooning of such infested fields.

**MENTHA**
1. The best time of planting mentha is second fortnight of January. Use two quintals of freshly dug 5-8 cm long suckers for one acre.
2. The suckers should be laid end-to-end in 45 cm apart furrows. Apply light irrigation after planting.
3. Apply 10-15 tonnes farmyard manure, 33 kg urea and 100kg single superphosphate per acre at planting.

**FODDER PRODUCTION**
1. If two cuttings of oats are being taken, one cutting can be taken during this month to meet the fodder shortage. Do not take two cuttings of oats where heavy infestation of Poa grass is there.
2. If lucerne has been sown, it should also be managed in such a manner that fodder is available during the lean period.
3. **Berseem stem rot**: The crop suffers from rotting at the soil surface due to stem rot disease. The disease is serious under humid/wet season. After taking the cutting of crop, expose the soil to the sun. Collect the diseased debris and destroy.
4. Berseem/Shaftal for seed production can be sown during the first fortnight of this month.
VEGETABLES

Potato

1. Complete sowing of spring potato in the 2nd fortnight of this month. If the seed raised from autumn crop is to be used for spring planting, its dormancy should be broken by dipping cut tubers in mixture of one per cent Thiourea and one ppm Gibberellic Acid for an hour. Air dry the treated seed pieces in shade for 24 hours in thin layers.

2. For spring crop, the seed may be dipped in the solution of Emesto Prime @ 83ml or Moncern @ 250 ml in 100 litres of water for 10 minutes before sowing to control black scurf. Spraying this solution on potato will not control this disease.

3. Twenty tonnes of farmyard manure alongwith 75 kg of N (165 kg of urea), 25 kg of $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ (155 kg single superphosphate) and 25 kg of $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ (40 kg of muriate of potash) per acre should be used. Drill whole P and K and half N at sowing and the remaining N at the time of earthing up.

4. The late and early blight of potato may be checked by spraying the crop with Indofil M 45/Kavach/Mass M-45/Markzeb @ 500-700 g/acre. The covering of the seed plot with dehaulmed shoots should be avoided from infected plants.

5. Aphids attack can be reduced by spraying 300 ml Metasystox 25 EC in 100 litres of water per acre. Do not spray these insecticides within 3 weeks of harvest.

Onion

Transplant 6-8 weeks old seedlings of onion in the field during first fortnight of January. Apply 20 tonnes well rotten farmyard manure together with 45 kg of urea, 125 kg single superphosphate and 35 kg muriate of potash per acre before transplanting. For the control of weeds, spray Stomp 30 EC @ 1.0 litre/acre in 200 litres of water or Stomp 30 EC @ 750 ml/acre + one hoeing or spray Goal 23.5 EC @ 380 ml/acre followed by one hand weeding after 100 days. The herbicides should be applied within a week after transplanting or after first irrigation. To control purple blotch, spray the crop with 300g Caviet or 600 g Indofil M- 45 mixed with 200 ml of Triton or linseed oil as sticker in 200 liters of water/acre. Spray may be repeated at an interval of 10 days.

Early cucurbits

To obtain early crop of muskmelon, watermelon, bottle gourd and pumpkin, procure 5 kg 100 gauge thick white plastic bags of 15 x 10 cm size and 100 gauge thickness. The plastic bags should be filled with a mixture of soil and well rotten farmyard manure in equal proportion. Puncture each bag at the bottom and fill it with this mixture Place the bags in sunlight and well protected from the frost and chilly Northern winds. In the last week of January, dibble two seeds per bag and water the bags with a sprinkler. Keep the bags moist and do not overwater. This technique is suitable for raising early crops of all the cucurbits for commercial cultivation.
HORTICULTURAL OPERATIONS

1. Pruning of deciduous fruit trees like peach, plum and pear should be carried out during January. For grapes, the pruning is normally initiated in the second fortnight of January and completed by first week of February.

2. The deciduous fruit plants like peach, plum and bare-rooted ber can be planted up to second fortnight of January while pear and grapes are planted in the first fortnight of February before they start new growth.

3. Old unproductive pear trees can be rejuvenated during December-January. For this purpose, headback the 3-4 main scaffolds to 15 cm and apply Bordeaux paste on cut ends.

4. The old Perlette vines trained on bower system can be rejuvenated by heading back. The primary arms leaving behind one feet stub in the month of January.

5. To rejuvenate senile mango trees head back the trees at 3m from ground level leaving 4-5 outward growing branches in the first week of January and apply Bordeaux Paste on the cut ends and white wash the exposed branches.

6. To rejuvenate the declining citrus orchards after harvest, remove the dead wood during January-February before the new growth starts. Apply Bordeaux paste to cut ends and trunk of the trees followed by Bordeaux paint after one week. Spray the crop with Bordeaux mixture (2 : 2 : 250). Treat foot rot/gummosis and canker in citrus by decortication and disinfection of wound on the trunk with Bordeaux paste. After the paste dries up in about a week, apply Bordeaux mixture (2 : 2 : 250).

7. Check the young plants protected from frost and made thatches where required. If the growers have not applied farmyard manure and fertilizer to the fruit plants during last month, it should be given now. Apply the farmyard manure, single superphosphate and half nitrogen and half potash to the grapes after pruning. One irrigation should be applied to the ber trees during this month as the fruits are in the developing stage.

8. Nymphs of mango mealy bug should be prevented from crawling up the trunk by applying 15-20 cm wide slippery band one metre above the ground level.

9. The best time for harvesting kinnow fruits is 15th January to 15th February. Use high density polyethylene (HDPE) bags for individual packing of kinnow fruits and seal the open end by heating or with rubber band after narrowing and twisting it for enhancing shelf life.

10. The dead, diseased, criss-crossed and unwanted branches from the bearing citrus trees should be removed during this month soon after the harvest of fruit crop. Spray Bordeaux mixture immediately.

11. To control the citrus canker, the infested plant parts like leaves, branches should be cut off and destroyed by burning. The pruned trees should be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture (2 : 2 : 250) immediately and apply Bordeaux paste to the cut surface and the trunk of the trees.
ORNAMENTALS

Annuals
Most of the varieties of winter season annuals like sweet pea must have started flowering. Tall growing annuals may require support of stakes for their proper upright growth. Seasonal planted in the pots are to be protected from cold injury by shifting to some protected spots.

Chrysanthemum
Flowering will be over in almost all the varieties by the end of this month. Flowers which are over may be cut back upto 4 - 5 cm height from the ground. This will encourage better sprouting of suckers.

Rose
Continue removing faded flowers and suckers to improve the quality of new blooms. Propagation of new plants can be carried out by T-budding.

Potted plants
These plants protect from frost injury, particularly during night time. Water regularly and plants like crotons must be kept in protected structures.

Perennial plants
The deciduous plants (which shed their leaves in winter) can be transplanted before they start sprouting without earth ball. Similarly, pruning and training of deciduous plants should also be carried out before they start sprouting. Pits can be prepared for plantation of all types of permanent plants in February-March. Generally, 3’x 3’ size of pits is dug for big trees and 2’ x 2’ for creepers and shrubs. The pits should be filled with a mixture of 2/3 parts top soil and 1/3 part of well rotten farmyard manure. Propagation of winter deciduous plants like Pagoda, Euphorbia, Lagerstroemia etc can be carried out in this month from stem cutting.

Marigold:
Seed sowing for marigold summer production can be undertaken on raised beds. Variety Punjab Gainda No 1 is suitable for summer season
FARM FORESTRY

Poplar

Prepare the plant for raising poplar nursery or field plantation in first week of January. Planting time for both is mid January to end of February. Procure the plants/cutting from PAU or other reputed nursery. One year old ETP’s (bare-rooted entire transplant) are planted in blocks at spacing of 5x4 m or 8x2.5m. Spacing for boundary plantation is 3m. Dig the pits of 15-20 cm diameter with the help of auger. Keep the depth as 75 cm in heavy soils or 100 cm in light soils to avoid wind throw later on. Fill the pits with top soil and FYM (1:1) mixed with 50g urea and 85g DAP. After planting, irrigate the field and apply irrigation at weekly interval till rainy season. For nursery raising, prepare the cuttings having a length of 20-25 cm and 2-3 cm diameter. Plant the cutting in well prepared field at spacing of 60x60 cm apart by keeping one bud above the surface. Apply light irrigation at 7-10 days intervals.

Safeda

For good marketing, harvest the trees for timber after 10-12 years of growth. For paper pulp, fuelwood and poles, fell the trees at 5 years of age with 40 cm girth. Fell the trees in winter and dry the logs in shade.

Tahli

For growing of nursery of Tahli, collect the ripe pods from healthy and straight trees and store in dry condition before sowing in the month of February-March.
BEE KEEPING

Honey bee colonies should be least opened during winter. Under compelling situations, the colonies should be examined very quickly during noon on some calm and sunny day. Any cracks and crevices/holes in the hives should be ensured to be plugged with plaster of paris or mud. If the colonies are still under shade, these should be shifted gradually into sun by moving less than 3 feet daily. Ensure that the colonies are not kept in the wide open all around, rather these be placed with one or two sides blocked with walls, etc. as winter breaks. The colonies entrance should face South-East direction. The surrounding and underneath of the colonies should be kept clean of grasses/weeds. Under prolonged cloudy/foggy/rainy spell, the colonies may fall short of honey stores. Under such circumstances, the colonies should be given feeding of concentrated sugar syrup (2 parts sugar: 1 part water). Prefer to provide this feed in drawn combs. Else, it can be provided in Division Board Feeder. Continue winter packing of the colonies during this month.
MUSHROOM GROWING

1. The ready compost for 2nd crop of button mushroom is spawned at the start of this month (1st week of Jan.) in the cross ventilated covered space.

2. If cultivation is carried out on shelves/trays, the top surface is covered with newspaper sheets and water spray continued on these paper sheets once or twice a day. There is no need to cover the spawned compost in the polyethylene bags with newspaper sheets and no spray of water is required.

3. Treat the farm yard manure to be used for casing with 4-5 % formaline in order to have disinfected casing which is required two weeks after seeding. At the time of casing, remove newspaper sheets and cover the spawn run compost with disinfected casing soil (1 ¼” - 1½”) thick layer and spray water daily on this.

4. Provide cross ventilation in the growing room for 4-6 hours daily, one week after casing.

5. Dhingri can also be sown during this month and on-going cropping of previously grown bags to continue.
DAIRY FARMING

Dry bedding to animals helps to save them from cold. Entry of very cold winds inside the shed should be minimized. Keep the animals under roof in night and in the sun during the day time. Do not apply milk for lubrication of teats after milking. To avoid cracking or fissuring of teats in cold dry weather clean the teats with warm water and apply ghee or butter or teat dips (glycerine Providone Iodine 1:8) after every milking. Feed well chaffed berseem mixed with wheat straw to avoid Aphara (Tympamy). Do not feed rice straw (Parali) alone to the animals. Due to winter rains, there is likelihood of spread of H.S. (Haemorrhagic Septicemia or Gall Ghotu). Get your animals vaccinated in preceding month but not later that 10th January. Vaccinate animals against FMD and repeat after six months or yearly as required. Deworming should be done in calves especially against Ascariasis/Malap with piperazine liquid 4 ml/ 10 kg body weight. New born calves need special care in cold weather. They are susceptible to Pneumonia and large number of them die due to this disease. Keep them warm by providing clean and dry bedding. Give them vitamin ‘A’ concentrate 1 ml daily in milk for three days to be repeated after a month.

POULTRY FARMING

Provide the curtains at windows in poultry sheds. The temperature should not go below 60º F inside the poultry sheds and suitable measures like doubling of curtains should be taken. Keep the chicks warm by giving them artificial heat according to age. For the first week internal temperature of the shed should be 90-95º F and it should decrease 5º F per week or according to weather conditions. Poultry ration should have more energy. Increase cereals by 5-8% in the ration by reducing the rice bran. Add coccidiostat in the ration to prevent its occurrence. Do not store the feed for more than 15 days.
Compiled by: Amarjit Singh