

JASHNI SAFFRON Celebrated in Govt. Degree College Baramulla

Department of Botany GDC Baramulla had taken initiatives of introduction of various Agro based skill developmental courses in the college for the undergraduate students that include mushroom cultivation technology, vermicomposting and saffron cultivation. The department has succeeded in cultivating the saffron for the first time in the Northern Kashmir and is in a continuous process since last three years. Attempts were made by the department of Botany for indoor of saffron cultivation in the college campus and the experiment was successful with high yielding results hence an attempt of vertical farming of saffron cultivation has been introduced. Keeping in view the bumper saffron crop this year both in the field and indoors, the institution celebrated JASHNI SAFFRON on 09-11-2021 under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) M. A. Lone principal of the college.

At the outset of the programme Dr. A. R. Malik, Head Department of Botany gave some introductory remarks of the event and the JASHNI SAFFRON was thrown open by the Head of the institution Prof.(Dr.) M A Lone. The student participants started saffron harvesting in wicker baskets both in the saffron farm of the college and in the indoor experimental site, under the shadow of folklore songs and were technically guided by Prof. A.M. Chalkoo and Prof. M. Aslam Bhat. After harvesting the crop was piled on the white carpet and the programme progressed with the plucking of stigmas from the flowers by the girl students of the college. The event was joined by Joint Director Agriculture (Kashmir) Mr. M. Qasim Gani and Dr. Saha Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and faculty members of the institution. Mr.Gani made students aware about the quality saffron and its marketing importance. Dr Saha hailed the attempts made by the institution to take the saffron cultivation beyond the boundaries of Pampore. Dr. A. R. Malik and Prof. A. M. Chalkoo highlighted the presence of phyto-constituents and medicinal importance, corm, its sowing, flower timing, stigma harvesting and drying of the saffron. The lead speaker Prof.(Dr.) M. A .Lone, principal of the college in his remarks praised the faculty of the Botany Department for their innovative approaches for inculcating student oriented agro-based skills and creating a history of saffron cultivation for the first time in North Kashmir. Prof. Lone assured the department of Botany for every kind of support to carry forward the skill courses and impressed upon the students to learn these skills to enable themselves for self and sustainable employment. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Prof. M. Aslam Bhat wherein he thanked the college administration for its support, guests from department of agriculture, college

faculty, student participants, laboratory staff, media department, gardeners and other supporting staff for making the event successful.



**JASHN E SAFFRON
CELEBRATED IN GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE BARAMULLA
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY**