Monthly Workshop for Capacity Building of Extension Functionaries

Message for the Month of April

Agronomy

Crop	***Operation/ Diseases/pests***	***Message/Impact points***
Rabi Crops		
Wheat	*Late jointing to booting*	- Fields and channels should be kept clean to avoid water stagnation during rainy days. - Apply second top dose of urea @ 3.25 kg/kanal. - Avoid water stress at booting stage if possible.
Brown Sarson	*Flowering to seed development*	- Fields and channels should be kept clean to avoid water stagnation during rainy days. - Avoid moisture stress during seed development stage if possible.
Rabi Pulses		
Field Pea	*Growth, flowering*	- Fields and channels should be kept clean to avoid water stagnation during rainy days. - Avoid moisture stress during pre-flowering and seed development stage if possible.
Lentil	*Growth, flowering*	- Same as in case of field pea.
Oat fodder	*Late jointing to flowering*	- Clean fields and channels to avoid water stagnation during rain. - Apply second top dose of urea @ 4.1 kg/kanal at booting stage. - Spiny and allergic weeds should be removed by hand if possible. - Harvest as green fodder or for hay making at 50% flowering stage.
Kharif crops		
Rice		- Arrange inputs of all kharif crops. - Seed treatment and soaking of rice seeds should be started in second fortnight of April for sprouting. - Prepare 1m wide nursery beds with convenient length as per requirement. - The nursery should be covered with polythene in the form of low poly tunnel with the help of willow sticks to protect nursery from chilling injury. - The nursery should be kept free from weeds and the area should have adequate irrigation and drainage facilities. - Nursery sowing should be done in the last week of April. - Use 50-60 kg seed for 1 ha transplanting in lower belts and 80 kg seed for 1 ha transplanting in higher belts. - Sow pre-sprouted rice seeds in nursery beds in the last week of April. - In the nursery beds apply pre stored ponded water instead of running water to avoid chilling injury.
Maize		- Crop can be sown from 1st April to end of the month in both lower and higher belts of valley. - Ensure sufficient moisture in the field before sowing.

Seed rate and planting geometry for different maize types.

S. No.	Purpose	Seed rate (kg/ha) (composite)	Seed rate (kg/ha) (hybrid)	Plant geometry (plant x row, cm)
1	Normal Maize	30	20	60 x 20 70 x 20
2	Sweet Corn	16	10	70 x 20 75 x 20
3	Baby corn	35	30	50 x 20 55 x 20
4	Pop corn	18	14	60 x 20
5	QPM	30	20	70 x 20
6	Fodder	70	60	25 x 10

Note: If due to some practical limitations, farmer is practicing broadcasting method of sowing, enhance seed rate by 10-15 per cent

Nutrient management

Apply well decomposed compost or FYM uniformly @ 15-20 t/ha and should be incorporated in the soil at the time of land preparation.

Note : Application of vermicompost @ 2.5 t /ha will replace 5 t FYM/ha and 25% NPK from recommended dose of fertilizers.

For irrigated maize,

- **In hybrid varieties:** the urea @ 5 kg/kanal, DAP @ 8.15 kg/kanal, MOP 3.35 kg/kanal and zinc sulphate @ 1.0 kg/kanal should be applied as basal dose.
- **In composite varieties :** the urea @ 4 kg/kanal, DAP @ 6.5 kg/kanal, MOP 2.5 kg/kanal and zinc sulphate @ 0.75-1.0 kg/kanal should be applied as basal dose

For rainfed maize

- **In hybrid varieties :** the urea @ 3 kg/kanal, DAP @ 5 kg/kanal, MOP 1.7 kg/kanal and zinc sulphate @ 0.75 kg/kanal should be applied as basal dose.
- **In composite varieties :** the urea @ 2.4 kg/kanal, DAP @ 4.35 kg/kanal, MOP 1.65 kg/kanal and zinc sulphate @ 0.5 kg/kanal should be applied as basal dose.
- Apply Atrazine (Atratraf 50 wp, Gesaprim 500 fw) @ of 1.0-1.5 kg a.i. ha^{-1} in 600 litre water 2-3 days after sowing to avoid weed infestation.

Entomology (Agriculture)

Crucifers	*Aphids*	- Dimethoate 30 EC @ 1ml/lit of water.
	Flea beetle	- Chlorpyriphos 20EC @ 1ml/lit of water
	Pieris brassicae	- hand picking of eggs and larva followed by their destruction
Mustard	*Mustard Aphid*	- Dimethoate 30 EC @ 1ml/lit of water (In case of severe infestation only).

***Impact Points*:**

☞ Spray should be carried out during early morning or late evening hrs.

Note: Spray on need basis.

Entomology (Horticulture)

Fruit crops

Apple (Pink bud stage)	*San Jose scale, Woolly apple aphid, Two-spotted spider mite*	**Need based, if HMO spray is missed:** - Spray Chlorpyrifos 20 EC @ 100 ml/100 lit. of water. OR Quinalphos 25 EC @ 100 ml/100 litres of water at pink bud stage. Removal and destruction of weeds in and around orchards
	Fruit fly	- All the dropped fruits of apple should be collected and buried deep in the soil.

		- Rake the soil beneath the tree canopy to expose fruit fly pupae to sunlight, desiccation thereby reducing adult emergence in next season.
	Blossom thrips	Need Based: - When 2 or more thrips/flower are observed, spray Thiacloprid 21.7 % SC @ 40 ml/100 liters of water.
	Leaf Roller	- When 1-2 larvae per flower cluster are observed spray Thiacloprid 21.7 SC (40 ml).
	Hairy caterpillar	- Hand collection and destruction of egg mass.
	Fruit borer	- Survey monitoring and mass awareness of the pest should be done among the orchardists. - Monitor adult population through Pheromone traps @ 8-10 traps/ ha. - If adult moths are trapped, spray Chlorpyrifos 50% + Cypermethrin 5% EC @ 1.25ml /litre of water at 15 days interval.
	Leaf miner	- Survey monitoring and mass awareness of the pest should be done. - Proper sanitation in the vicinity of the orchard. - Monitor adult population through pheromone baited traps @ 8-10/ha - Installation of sticky traps @ 1/10 m apart for monitoring of moth emergence. - **After first moth catch in trap**; spray Thiamethoxam 25 WG @ 50g/ 100 litres of water OR Thiamethoxam 12.6 + Lambda Cyhalothrin 9.5 ZC @ 50ml/ 100 litres of water or Imidacloprid 6.0 + Lambda Cyhalothrin 4.0 SL @ 50ml/ 100 litres of water.
Plum	*Aphids*	- In case aphid population is high spray Chlorpyrifos 20 EC @ 100 ml/100 lit. of water
Vegetables (Potato, All transplanting varieties of different vegetables)	*Overwintering insects (cut worm, white grubs etc.)*	- Deep ploughing of fields to expose insects' pupae for desiccation/ predation by birds. - Removal of weeds in the vicinity of crops to be planted to discourage egg laying by cut worms. - Removal of trash/crop residues of previous crop from the fields. - Apply Carbofuran 3% CG @ 32.5 kg/ha before planting of seedlings during last ploughing of field in those areas where previous records of infestation and severity was high.
Flowers	*Tulip (Grubs)*	- When 2-3 grub/m^2 in the soil is recorded; - Apply Carbofuran 3% CG @ 32.5 kg/ha in between the rows of field. **OR** Drench field either with Chlorpyriphos 20EC @400ml/100 liters of water **Or** Cypermethrin 10EC@100 ml/100 liters of water.
Rodent management	*Horticulture*	**If weather is dry, follow the below mentioned practices:** - **Field sanitation:** Removal of left over debris and grasses from orchards to discourage rodents from availability of food and shelter - **Reduction in bund size:** Reduce the size of bunds or boundaries around the orchards up to 30cm to force the rodents to leave the burrows - **Burrow Fumigation:** Smoking the burrow with cow dung +Maize straw/maize pith + weeds **with** the help of burrow fumigator **Chemical control (Rodent bait schedule):** ✓**Day 1:** Plugging of rodent burrows ✓**Day 2**: Identification of live burrows for pre-baiting prior to poison. For pre baiting with plain bait (crushed rice (48 gm) + broken wheat grain (48 gm) + sugar (2.0 gm) and 2.0 ml mustard oil) and place 10-15gm/ live burrow. ✓Day 3: 2.0% Zinc phosphide* baiting during late evening with

(crushed rice (48 gm) + broken wheat grain (48 gm) + Zinc phosphide 2.0 gm and 2.0 ml. mustard oil, all mixed together) be placed inside the live burrow @ 6-10 g bait/ live burrow).

- ✓**Day 4:** Collection and burying of dead rodents. Close all burrows.
- ✓**Day 5:** Identification of live burrows.
- ✓**Day 6:** Fumigate live reopened burrows with Aluminum Phosphide pellets @ 2 pellets/burrow or 5-10 g pouch/burrow and cover with wet mud.

For residual rodent population :

- **Bromadiolone:** Bromadiolone (0.25% BC) @ 10- 15 g per burrow to be placed inside the live burrows.

* **Precautions:** Since residual rodent population develops bait shyness after one baiting with Zinc phosphide, a minimum of 50-60 days gap should be given before it is used again.

Since rodents are a serious constraint in horticulture their effective control is only possible if farmers work together as a community.

Note: *If treatment has been carried out during March then do not repeat during April.*

Apiculture

- Detailed Inspection of colonies during sunny days to observe the presence and performance of queen, check status of brood and adult bees
- Multiplication of colonies by encouraging division of colonies.
- Establish a healthy and strong colony prior to honey flow season.
- Wider the entrance of the colony.
- Manage swarming.
- Kill the queen wasps by manual flapping or by installing wasp traps.

Pollination of Crops(Fruits & Vegetables)

- ☞ For proper fruit setting, keep two colonies of *Apis mellifera* in the apple orchards @3 /ha.
- ☞ Vegetable seed growers of valley are advised to keep Honey bee colonies on bunds for pollination in order to enhance their yield.
- ☞ 4 colonies for Kale/turnip/radish/knoll kohl /ha
- ☞ 6 colonies for Onion seed growers/ha

Plant Pathology (Horticulture)

Fruits

Apple	*Scab and other foliar diseases*	**Spray at Pink bud stage** - Spray Metiram 55% + Pyraclostrobin 5% 60 WG (@0.1%) or Zineb 68% + Hexaconazole 4% 72WP (@0.1%) or Dodine 65 WP (0.06%) or Dodine 40 SC (@0.09%) or Tebuconazole 6.7% + Captan 26.9% 33.6 SC (@ 0.25%). **Spray at petal fall stage (60-70% petal fall)** - Difenaconazole 25EC (0.03%) or Flusilazole 40EC (0.02%) or Trifloxystrobin 25% + Tebuconazole 50% 75WG (0.04%) or Fluopyram (17.7%) + Tebuconazole (17.7%) (@0.05%).
	Root rot	- Drench tree basin of affected tree with Carbendazim 50 WP (0.1%) or Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% 75WP (0.5%). Apply fungicide suspension in 15-20 cm deep holes at a distance of 30 cm throughout the tree basin
	Collar rot	- Clean the affected collar area and apply Chaubatia or Bordeux paste. - Drench the soil under tree canopy with Metalaxyl MZ 72WP (0.5%).
Almond, plum, peach, apricot and cherry	*Foliar fungal disease*	- Spray Carbendazim 50WP (0.05%) or Thiophanate Methyl 70WP (0.05%) or Dodine 65WP (0.06%) or Captan 50WP (0.3%).

Pear	*Fabrea leaf & fruit spot*	- Spray Thiophanate Methyl 70WP (0.05%) or Carbendazim 50WP (0.05%) or Mancozeb 75WP (0.3%) or chlorothalonil 75 WP (0.25%).
Grapes	*Anthracnose*	- Spray with Thiophanate Methyl 70 WP (0.05%) or Carbendazim 50WP (0.05%) or Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% 75WP (0.25%) or Captan 50WP (0.3%) or Mancozeb 75WP (0.3%)
	Powdery mildew	- Spray with Dinocap 48EC (0.05%) or Hexaconazole 5 EC (0.05%) or Flusilazole 40EC (0.02%) immediately after disease appearance.

Impact Points:

- ☞ Improve orchard sanitation
- ☞ Ensure proper aeration and drainage in orchards.
- ☞ Sticker like Sandovit @ 50-75 ml/100 liter may be added to fungicide suspension during rainy seasons **(stickers should not be used with Dodine)**
- ☞ Do not conduct sprayings during high temperature. Spray be conducted during evening hours.

Vegetables

Tomato, chilli, brinjal & capsicum	*Pre-emergence damping off*	- Prepare raised nursery beds and incorporate well decomposed FYM (incorporated with biocontrol agents like Trichoderma) @ 20 tons / ha. - Treat the seeds with mancozeb 75WP or captan 50WP @ 3 g/ kg seed before sowing.
	Post-emergence damping off/ seedling blight	- Drench the nursery beds with Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% 75WP (0.5%). - Give light but frequent irrigation in the morning hours. - Avoid heavy irrigation / flooding.
	Wilt/root rot	- Dip seedling in carbendazim 50 WP (0.1%) for 30 minutes before transplanting

Vegetable Science

Solanaceous	*Sowing of seeds in open nursery*	- Raised beds of convenient size (2m x 1m x 15 cm) may be thoroughly prepared for raising nursery. - Add 40 g urea, 25 g each of DAP and MOP and 5-10 kg of well rotten FYM to the nursery bed and mix it thoroughly with the working soil

Impact points

- ☞ The soil of the seed bed should be of good tilth not liable to crusting and free from weeds.
- ☞ Site for Nursery bed may be selected at sunny areas facing south.
- ☞ For the control of fungal diseases pre-sowing treatment of seeds may be done with suitable fungicides like captan 3 g/kg of seed.
- ☞ Mulching should be done to conserve moisture and to maintain the soil temperature.
- ☞ Avoid excessive application of nitrogen
- ☞ Avoid sowing of seeds too close, line sowing should be adopted.

All cucurbits	*Direct sowing in main field*	- Apply sufficient amount of well rotten FYM @1-1.25 tonnes/kanal and mix it thoroughly with the soil and then seeds may be sown at 2-3 cm depth.
Early crop of cucurbits	*Transplant--ation*	- Cucurbits raised in polypacks under protected conditions can be transplanted for taking early crop. - Seedlings are transplanted along with soil in well prepared beds with spacing of 2m x 1m in bottle gourd, water melon; 1.20 m x

30 cm in cucumber; 3 m x 1 m in pumpkin.

Beans

- Bush type beans like Bountiful, Master and Arka Komal may be sown.
- Apply 1-1.25 t FYM/kanal, 0.75 kg/kanal Urea, 6.5 kg/kanal DAP and 5 kg/kanal MOP. Apply entire FYM, DAP, MOP and ½ Urea at the time of sowing and other ½ Urea when true leaves emerge.

Impact Points:

- ☞ 2-3 pre-soaked seeds may be sown in each pit.
- ☞ Sunny locations are strictly recommended for cucurbitaceous crops.
- ☞ Sowing may be done preferably on ridges to avoid rotting due to water stagnation.
- ☞ Care should be taken while removing polypacks not damaging the root system, as cucurbits are shy to transplanting.

Cabbage, Knol khol and Kale

Transplanting of seedlings (from nursery beds)

- Thorough field preparation is needed.
- Divide the main field in to convenient sized plots keeping provision for smooth flow of irrigation water.
- Apply fertilizers to an area of one kanal at the following rates.

Crops	**FYM (t/k)**	**Urea**	**DAP**	**MOP**
		(Kg/k)		
Cabbage	1.25-1.5	13.75	6.50	5
Knol Khol	0.75-1.00	11.00	6.50	6.75
Saag	1.25-1.50	7.25	6.50	5

Impact Points:

- ☞ Seedlings should be subjected to hardening treatment prior to transplanting.
- ☞ Uproot healthy seedlings when bed is moist.
- ☞ Plant Knol khol at a spacing of 30x20 cm, Sag 30 x 15 cm & Cabbage 60 x 45 cm.
- ☞ Apply water regularly with rose cane till the plants are established in the field.
- ☞ Avoid weak, lanky, over-aged and diseased seedlings.
- ☞ Entire FYM, DAP, MOP and ½ Urea should be applied just before sowing and other ½ Urea 30 days after transplanting.

Radish (Scarlet Globe table variety)

Sowing of seeds

- Radish seed sowing may be continued.

Kale, Knol khol, cabbage, carrot,onion turnip

Seed crops of Rabi vegetables

- Apply 2nd dose of urea at flowering and mix it thoroughly with soil soon after weeding and hoeing.

Impact Points:

- ☞ Vertical cross cuts perpendicular to each other should be applied to cabbage for facilitation if seed stalk.

Potato

Earthing up

- Earthing up of potato should be done.

Table Radish in Potato (Scarlet Globe)

Intercropping

- Sowing of radish on the ridges of potato planted during the month of March

Fruit Science

Fertilizer & Micronutrient

- If the fertilizer has not been applied yet, then apply it after fruit set as per the message of March.
- 1st dose of fertilizers according to the package of practice should be applied to

Application		grapes and Kiwifruit - Prebloom spray of boric acid @1.5g per litre in grapes
Hoeing and mulching of fruit trees		- Hoeing followed by mulching especially under Karewa conditions may be done with grass and other crop residues. This will also suppress weed growth and conserves moisture. - Remove suckers/weeds from the orchards. - Scrap off dead bark and lichens from trees with bark scrappers and white wash trees against the sunburn especially with the following formulation. o Hydrated Lime = 5 kg o Copper sulphate = 310 gm o Water = 100 litres Also add sticker for its efficacy.
Pollination		- Provide pollination by introducing bees @ 2 hives per /acre in apple and pear orchard. - Introduce beehives in apple orchard when there is 10-15 per cent bloom or when king flowers open and at 25-30 per cent in pear orchard. - If pollinizer proportion is lacking in the orchard, Bouquet's placement as a temporary measure is recommended.
Nursery operations		- Hoeing and weeding of nursery beds. - Apply fertilizers to the nursery plants. - Deshooting of grafting/budding plants.

Floriculture and landscape Architecture

Spring flowering Annuals/ bulbous crops	*Weeding/ top dressing and intercultural operation*	- Weeding/top dressing of Spring flowering annuals like Pansy, Calfornia poppy, Candy tuft, Verbena, Sweet pea, Sweet Foliar etc. - Tulip, Hyacinth, oxalis, freesia, fritillaria, Dutch Iris etc - Foliar application of micronutrients/growth retardants after flowering is over which will enhance propagation ratio.
Cut flowers Gerbera Carnation, Lilium, Gladiolus	*Planting/ Inter cultural operations*	- Planting of plants/bulbs/corms. - Regular weeding, application of proper fertilizer doses, irrigation, right method of harvesting and post-harvest management should be ensured.
Turf grasses	*Raising*	- Raising through different methods like seeds, dibbling, turfing etc
Shrubs	*Intercultural operations*	- Pruning of shrubs which have completed flowering phase.
Edges		- Hedges/edges should be trimmed regularly.
summer annuals	*Nursery raising*	- Nursery raising of marigold, zinnia salvia etc.

Livestock Production Management

Sheep/Goat

- As lambing season is almost over, care of lambs should be taken towards feeding management.
- Milk feeding to lambs/kids should be ensured and creep feeding should be started for above 15-21 days age.
- Lamb/kid growth rate should be continuously monitored by recording their body weight at regular intervals.
- To protect against coccidiosis, lambs/kids above 21-30 days age should be given Amprolium @ 1gm/5kg body weight.
- Multicomponent clostridial vaccination (MCC) should be done to lambs/kids of 21-30 days age.
- FMD vaccination should be done after 15-21 days of MCC.
- Consequent upon the availability of greens, grazing hours should be gradually enhanced with gradual reduction in concentrate.

- Shearing of sheep flock should be done depending upon weather condition.
- Ectoparaciticidal dipping of the flock should be done preferably on a sunny day ensuring that atleast some wool is available on animal body to retain the solution.

Cattle

- FMD vaccination should be ensured as soon as possible
- Greens should be added gradually so as to prevent digestive disturbances. It is preferable to offer dry fodder before turning to grazing so as to ensure animals do not consume excess greens.
- Mineral supplementation (magnesium, calcium, phosphorus etc.) should be done to prevent deficiencies.

Ration Table

❖ Animal	Concentrate	Hay	Greens
Cow (15 litre milk/day)	6 Kg	4-6 Kg	15-20* Kg
Pregnant cow	6 kg +0.5 kg	do	do

*Subject to availability

❖ **Homemade Concentrate**

Feed ingredient	Parts
Wheat bran	12
Rice bran	15
Mustard oil cake	25
Maize	40
Molasses/Gur	5
Mineral mix.	2
Salts	1

Machine made: Pellet feeds for cattle available in market etc.

Equines: Concentrate should be given to pregnant mares @ 1-1.5 Kg/day

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Forestry

Tree/crop Management Practices in Agroforestry

April is a peak month for transitioning from winter dormancy to active spring growth. Agroforestry activities during this time focus on planting, soil preparation, and managing the flowering stages of both fruit and timber trees.

Strategies/ Operations	Message/ Impact/ Action points
1. Nursery and Plantation Activities April is a critical month for establishing new tree stocks and managing young saplings.	- **Nursery Management:** It is the active time for preparing nursery beds and potting media, including taking cuttings for willow and poplar propagation - **Transplanting**: Saplings/seedlings of multipurpose trees like Willow (*Salix alba*), Poplar (*Populus deltoides*), and Robinia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) are transplanted into boundary plantations or agri-silviculture systems. - **Mulberry Management:** Mulberry trees (*Morus alba*) begin their flowering period in April. Farmers monitor these for silviculture purposes, as the leaves are vital for the sericulture (silk) industry later in the season.
2. Fruit Tree Management (Horti-Agriculture) Since the "Horti-Agri" model is dominant in Kashmir, managing fruit trees is a priority in April.	- **Blossom Monitoring**: Almond trees in agroforestry reach full bloom by early spring (late March to April), signaling the start of the fruit-growing season. - **Pruning & Cleanup:** Final pruning of apple and walnut trees is completed to ensure healthy fruit sets. Pruned wood is often collected for use as fuel or for making traditional "Kangri" fire-pots. - **Pollination Support**: With many fruit trees flowering in April, farmers may place honeybee hives within agroforestry plots to ensure effective

	pollination.
3. Intercropping & Soil Preparation Farmers manage the space beneath trees to maximize land productivity.	- **Spring Crop Sowing:** In agri-horti systems, April is the time for sowing "spring crops" like wheat and barley. - **Field Preparation for Rice:** While rice is typically planted in May, April is spent on ploughing and harrowing fields to prepare for the upcoming Kharif (summer) season). - **Potato Sowing:** Along with rice preparation, potatoes are commonly sown during the March-April window. - **Soil Health Management:** Farmers apply fertilizers and manure to the soil around tree bases and in intercropping areas to replenish nutrients after the winter freeze. - **Land Preparation:** Deep ploughing of interspaces in alley cropping systems (e.g., in agro-silviculture with maize/vegetables) to improve soil aeration. - **Mulching:** Utilizing organic waste as mulch around trees to conserve moisture, which is critical as the weather turns warmer in April. - **Ditch/Drain Cleaning:** Clearing irrigation channels and drainage ditches around the field boundaries.
4. Fodder & Livestock Integration Agroforestry in Kashmir serves as a vital bridge for livestock feed.	- **Pasture Re-growth:** In horti-silvi-pasture systems, grasses and legumes like Clover begin their spring growth, providing fresh green fodder for livestock. - **Fodder Management:** April marks the end of the "lean period" where farmers relied on stored dry fodder; they now begin transitioning to fresh grazing in silvipastoral areas. - **Fodder Collection:** Harvesting or cleaning up early spring forage in silvopastoral systems.
5. Tree Management Practices In April, farmers perform agroforestry management practices such as planting Populus and Salix cuttings, pruning willow/poplar, fertilising fruit trees (apple/almond), and sowing spring crops (oats/vegetables) in agrisilviculture systems. Other key practices include nursery preparation, intensive weed control, branch pruning, and applying manure to boost soil health for the upcoming season.	- **Pruning & Lopping:** Prune fruit trees (Prunus species) and poplars to allow sunlight penetration to understory crops. - **Planting:** April is suitable for planting saplings of Populus nigra, Salix alba, and Ailanthus excelsa on boundary lines to function as windbreaks or for timber. - **Coppicing:** In willow/poplar systems, manage previous years' growth by cutting back stumps for fodder or fuel wood production. - **Nursery Management:** Maintain nursery beds for fodder species (e.g., *Robinia pseudoacacia*) to be transplanted later. - **Plantation and Preparation:** April is suitable for preparing and planting cuttings of fast-growing species like *Populus deltoides* (poplar) and *Salix alba* (willow) along boundaries or in block plantations. - **Pruning and Pollarding:** This is crucial for managing light penetration for understory crops. Practices include branch pruning and pollarding to manage tree height and reduce competition for nutrients. - **Root Pruning:** Carried out to limit root expansion and reduce competition with crops. - **Debudding:** Initial maintenance for young poplar nurseries. - **Windbreak Maintenance:** Maintaining Salix alba or Populus as boundary fences to protect emerging crops/fruit blossom from cold spring winds. - **Coppicing:** For fodder trees (e.g., Robinia), coppicing is performed to promote fresh fodder growth for the coming months. - **Pest and Disease Management:** Monitoring for early spring pests in apple-based agroforestry, particularly aphid infestation and apple scab management, which start with new leaf growth.
6. Crop Management	- **Intercropping:** Focus on planting annual field crops (e.g., wheat,

Practices In April, agroforestry management in Kashmir focuses on transitioning from winter to the spring cropping season, primarily involving the establishment of new tree-crop combinations, orchard management, and preparation for summer crops. April is a critical period for field preparation, planting, and nutrient management as temperate conditions begin.	oilseeds, or early leafy vegetables) between young tree rows to optimize light. Sowing of early temperate vegetables (radish, knol khol, spinach, turnip) and Kharif fodder crops like oats (if not already done) between young tree rows. - **Vegetables:** Spinach, turnip, reddish, carrot, onion, peas, cabbage, kale, tomato and cauliflower are often cultivated under fruit trees (horti-agricultural system). - **Fodder:** *Avena sativa* (Oats) and clover (*Trifolium* spp.) are managed in horti-silvipastoral systems to bridge the spring fodder deficit. - **Soil Nutrient Management:** Apply farmyard manure (FYM) to fruit orchards and agricultural plots to boost soil nutrients, especially after the winter dormancy period. Opening basins around fruit trees and applying FYM (Farmyard Manure) in combination with fertilizers to rejuvenate soil after winter. - **Moisture Management:** As temperatures rise, maintain proper irrigation, especially for new saplings and early-season leafy crops. - **Weeding:** Perform shallow tillage or weeding to prepare soil and reduce competition for nutrients in agrisilviculture systems. - **Soil Preparation and Sowing:** Sowing of spring fodder crops like oats and legumes (e.g., clover) is undertaken, as well as land preparation for summer staples like maize or beans in agro-silviculture systems. - **Fertilizer Application:** Applying fertilizers and organic manures to fruit trees (horti-silviculture) and field crops. - **Weed Management:** Early management of weeds is necessary to prevent competition for moisture and nutrients during the spring growth phase.

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