



## **How to deal with the present situation occurred due to Covid19**

Since our country as well as whole world is struggling and fighting against Corona virus. Indian farmers are also severely affected due to this situation. All our poly house growers are unable to send their flowers to market since markets are closed due to this pandemic corona virus issue. But since all floriculture crops has its own life cycle; such as Gerbera- 3-4 years, Carnation 2-3 years, Orchids- 6-7 years, Roses-4-5 years, Gypsophilla 2-3 years.

So considering the life cycle of the crop it is most important to maintain the plants in poly house using minimum inputs so that the cost is reduced to maintain those plants to remain healthy and productive for next season. However; neglecting the crop during this period leads to irreversible damage to the crop and eventually hamper the crop performance when you need flowers to cater demand of market. Following are few tips which will make greenhouse management cost effective & maintain plant healthy and physiologically fit for upcoming season:

**Disclaimer Note: These are general guidelines prepared for our growers; company does not own any liability for issues and results since they may vary with different conditions like soil water and climate.**

### **For Gerbera and Carnation:**

- **Greenhouse Management to control climate:**

Maintain climate inside polyhouse by operating top shade net, reduce light intensity during afternoon hours by spreading the top net, proper cross ventilation by keeping side curtains open during day time, operating foggers in peak high temperatures. With maintaining optimum conditions in polyhouse we can reduce pest and disease infestation and plants will remain healthy.

- **Application of organic material:**

Plants which have completed one year for gerbera or two flush in carnation should be supplemented with well decomposed FYM, Neem cake and granules in bed followed by racking and watering to avoid raising Ec levels due to addition of organic material. This will help to increase the CN ratio of soil and ultimately plant will get nutrients for longer period of time.



- **Cultural practices:**

Since there is no market for flowers, removal of all flowers along with buds in gerbera. Maintain sufficient leaves on plant; take care while removing old and lower leaves. Do not damage main shoot of plant.

In carnation if flush is over, remove the infected and dried lower leaves and keep area clean. Maintain the support system properly so that there will not be lodging of crop during flowering stage.

- **Fertigation with low EC:**

Since we were giving fertilizers for last whole year, soil has sufficient buffer stock to nourish the plants. The fertigation with low EC will help the crop to sustain and carry out its basic physiological activities and reduce fertilizer costs as well. Rooting Hormone: Humic acid drenching; once in 10 days, will also be useful in the root formation.

Note: The regular fertigation schedule has to be commenced two weeks prior to the demand of flowers in the market! Soil and water analysis: Once the lean period is over; the EC and pH of the soil should be tested before starting with the full fledged fertigation schedule

- **Moisture Content:**

“Wapsa” or the optimum moisture condition of bed should be maintained. During this period plants should not be in stress condition since this is the peak summer. Silicon being an anti-stress element will safeguard the plants against any stress.

- **Pest and Disease management :**

Depending on the existing climatic conditions; regular preventive sprays with Fungicides and Insecticides should be carried out. Regular scouting for pests and diseases should be carried out on priority basis. Considering summer season spray against Mites, Thrips and Leaf miner has to be taken on regular basis (at least once in a week).

Note: Area surrounding polyhouse should be kept free from weeds which act as host for insects and pests



## **For Dendrobium orchids:**

- **Greenhouse Management to control climate:**

Since orchid requires low light, maintain 12000-15000 lux light intensity for vegetative stage and 25000-30000 lux light for production stage. Side curtains should be kept open to get maximum ventilation inside polyhouse, Run the foggers frequently from morning 11.00 pm to 4.00 pm; 2 minutes per 30 minutes since this crop requires more humidity

- **Fertigation:**

Nutrient requirement for orchid is very less as compared to other crops, give fertilizers at least twice in a week instead of four times a week.

- **Moisture Content:**

Coco shells should have sufficient moisture for proper development of roots and ultimately plant. Coco shell should not be soggy or too dry. Watering should be done twice during this summer season, once in morning up to 8.00am and second during 12 noon, consider the moisture condition in coco shell while giving water

- **Pest and Disease management :**

For Orchids, take preventive spray for Mites like Omite, Magister and for fungus; spray with Captaf or M-45 once in 10 days.