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अपर सचिव

भारत सरकार

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग

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Subject: Observance of International Day of Plant Health 2024

Dear colleagues,

As we approach the **International Day of Plant Health on May 12th**, I am thrilled to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to you and your team. This occasion provides us with a valuable opportunity to reflect on the critical role that plants play in sustaining life on our planet and to reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding their health and well-being.

Plants are the foundation of our ecosystems, providing us with food, clean air, and countless other essential resources. However, they face numerous threats, including pests, diseases, and climate change, which can have devastating consequences for agriculture, biodiversity, and human livelihoods. Recognizing the significance of plants, **the theme for this year's International Day of Plant Health is "Plant Health, Safe Trade, and Digital Technology."**

This theme emphasizes the importance of digital technology to monitor and manage plant health effectively, thereby ensuring food safety, promoting safe trade practices and supporting sustainable economies and livelihoods. It calls upon us to increase awareness and take proactive measures to safeguard the health of our plants.

As stewards of plant health, it is our collective responsibility to take proactive measures to prevent the spread of pests and diseases, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and conserve plant biodiversity. By working together, we can build resilient food systems, mitigate the impact of climate change, and ensure a healthier, more prosperous future for generations to come. Let us organize events on a large scale, involving various stakeholders such as the general public, universities, farmers group, media professionals, school children, NGOs, private sector entities and associated trade partners.

Additionally, let's engage young people in activities aimed at raising awareness about the importance of plant health. The **"Save Plants, Save the Planet"**, **"Healthy Plant means a Healthy Planet"**, **"Conserve natural biocontrol agents for sustainable agriculture"**, **"safe and judicious use of pesticide"**, **"follow plant quarantine regulation and protect biodiversity"** etc. can be awareness messages.

Together, let's make an intensive effort to celebrate the International Day of Plant Health in a manner that leaves a long-term impact. By supporting sustainable food production, safeguarding our environment and fostering economic development, we can ensure a brighter future for generations to come.

Thank you for your dedication and contributions to this vital cause. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in safeguarding the health and well-being of our planet's precious plant life.

Best wishes,

Faiz Ahmed Kidwai

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