



Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST) Integral University, Lucknow

A brief report on Kisan Goshti “Promoting sustainable agriculture: building a harmonious relationship with the environment” in lalpur village, Lucknow, organized by Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, in commemoration of World Environment Day

A Kisan Goshti was organized by Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural, Science and Technology IIAST, Integral University, on 27th of May, 2023 in Manpur Lala Village, Lucknow, to celebrate world environment day, under the topic: “Promoting sustainable agriculture: building a harmonious relationship with environment” i.e. “ satat krishi prayas: paryavarana sauhardya". The Kisan Goshti, is an initiative aimed at empowering farmers by providing them with a platform to voice their concerns, share experiences on various developments in the farming sector, and discuss agricultural issues along with other stakeholders like subject specialists. Kisan Goshti aims to alleviate poverty among farmers by equipping them with knowledge, skills, and resources to enhance agricultural productivity, increase incomes and improve livelihoods which inclines with SDG 1 and contributes to create awareness for achieving zero hunger (SDG 2), by promoting improved agricultural practices and techniques thereby increasing food production and ensuring food security for farming communities.

The Goshti was observed under the guidance of Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. The Goshti was organized by the faculty coordinator Er Ashfaq (Assistant Professor), Dr. Ayush Bhushan (Assistant Professor), and Dr. Setu Ratnam (Assistant Professor) along with the assistance of the students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, second year. Multiple events were part of the Kisan Goshti, the Goshti started with a Nukkad Natak themed on “Environmental awareness and Sustainable Agriculture: a global avenue” to raise awareness amongst farmers. The students created an interactive and impactful play that effectively communicated agricultural messages, engaged farmers emotionally and educated them on environmentally friendly sustainable farming practices. This session was preceded by a discussion on hydroponics aimed to introduce farmers to the concept of soilless cultivation and its potential to revolutionize agriculture. This discussion provided an overview of hydroponics, its benefits, different systems, and its role in sustainable food production. Er. Ashfaq shared and demonstrated hydroponics and encouraged farmers to uptake it at both on a small scale and in commercial settings. He highlighted the impact of hydroponics in urban farming, vertical farming, sustainable food production and its potentiality in lowering soil pollution and vital role in maintaining environmental health. The session was concluded with an informational lecture by Dr. Setu Ratnam about Kisan Call Centre (KCC) pertaining to the helpline service specifically designed to cater to the needs of farmers and provide them with agricultural information, guidance, and support. The number 180018003553 of KCC, aims to address the farmers’ queries promptly, offer technical guidance, disseminate knowledge about modern farming practices, and provide information about government schemes, agricultural markets, weather updates, crop diseases, pest management and sustainable agriculture.

At the end of the session, three “**Harit Kalash**” in the form of hydroponic plants were gifted to progressive woman farmer Malti devi, a farming entrepreneur, and the sarpanch Shri Dharmendra Yadav. The farmers’ feedbacks were taken and queries were addressed by faculty members. The event was successful by the efforts of one and all.

Glimpses of Kisan Goshthi:

