

**Brief Report of National Seminar on  
“National Agricultural Education Policy: Current and Future Perspectives”  
and “Integral Farmer’s Award Ceremony” organized by Integral Institute of  
Agricultural Science and Technology, Integral University, Lucknow on 04 November,  
2023**

A one day National seminar on “National Agricultural Education Policy: Current and Future Perspectives” and “Integral Farmer’s Award Ceremony” was organized by Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow on November 4<sup>th</sup>,2023 at the Central Auditorium of Integral University. This Seminar marked a significant milestone in addressing current challenges and future perspectives in agricultural education. Organized by IIAST, the event brought together experts, academicians, and farmers to share insights and celebrate the exemplary contributions of farmers.

**Inaugural session**

The inauguration of the event commenced with a floral, warm and formal welcome extended by **Prof. Mohammad Haris Siddiqui**, Director IIAST. Prof. Siddiqui expressed his gratitude to all the dignitaries, farmers and participants for attending the seminar. He provided an overview of the history, achievements and contributions of the Integral Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (IIAST) highlighting its emergence as a promising institution in the field of Agriculture. Prof. Siddiqui provided a comprehensive overview of the genesis of Integral University and its commitment to advancing agricultural education. His welcome set the tone for an enlightening and productive event.

**Dr. R.C. Agarwal**, Hon’ble DDG, Division of Agricultural Education, ICAR, New Delhi, graced the occasion as the esteemed chief guest. The seminar also witnessed the participation of prominent dignitaries as a Guest of Honor including **Dr. Sudhir Kumar Shukla**, Director, U.P. Council of Sugarcane Research, Shahjahanpur, **Dr. Rasappa Viswanathan**, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, **Dr. Uttam K. Sarkar**, Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow, **Dr. T. Damodaran**, Director, ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow. The distinguished guests were welcomed with beautiful indoor plants and bonsai.

**Prof. Javed Musarrat**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Integral University delivered his opening remarks. He addressed the audience, providing valuable insights into the current status of Agricultural education in the country. He discussed challenges faced by educational institutions and students, emphasizing the need for strategic improvements to meet evolving agricultural demands. Prof. Musarrat outlined the objectives of the seminar, which included engaging in rigorous discussions, sharing groundbreaking research and exploring innovative approaches to address agricultural challenges. He emphasized the unique opportunity to pool collective wisdom, transcending borders and boundaries to find solutions that benefit both the current and future generations. Later the distinguished guests were felicitated and the stage was graced by the Guest of Honors.

**Dr. Sudhir Kumar Shukla**, Director, U.P. Council of Sugarcane Research, Shahjahanpur, delivered an insightful address. His presentation included a detailed analysis of the existing Agricultural education system, shedding light on the challenges faced by educational institutions and students. He emphasized through the research, students and faculty members will be able to address real-world challenges and contribute to innovative solutions. Dr. Shukla's address set the stage for constructive discussions on the current state of agricultural education.

**Dr. Rasappa Viswanathan**, Director, ICAR- Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, took the stage to discuss innovations and best practices in Agricultural education. Dr. Viswanathan showcased successful models and practices in the field. His presentation provided the audience with tangible examples of excellence in Agricultural education. The guest of honor envisioned a holistic evolution of agricultural education driven by a strong research foundation. He suggested that a symbiotic relationship between education and research can foster a dynamic learning environment that is responsive to the evolving needs of the agricultural sector.

**Dr. Uttam K. Sarkar**, Director, ICAR- National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow, addressed the Role of technology in Agricultural education. He emphasized the integration of modern technology into the agricultural curriculum and explored the impact of e-learning initiatives on agricultural education.

**Dr. T. Damodaran**, Director, ICAR- Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow, highlighted the importance of practical skills in agricultural education. His address also focused on programs promoting entrepreneurship among agricultural graduates, underlining the practical aspects of education.

**Dr. Sayed Nadeem Akhtar**, Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor, Integral University, provided insights into interdisciplinary approaches in agricultural education. He discussed collaborations between agriculture and other disciplines, emphasizing opportunities and challenges. Dr. Akhtar also shared an overview of collaborative programs with international agricultural institutions, highlighting potential areas for growth.

The highlight of the event was the insightful address delivered by our esteemed Chief Guest, **Dr. R.C. Agarwal**, Hon'ble DDG, Division of Agricultural Education, ICAR, New Delhi. He emphasized the pivotal role of research in shaping agricultural education policies. He stressed the need for increased student and faculty involvement in research, outlining the potential impact on the evolution of agricultural education. Dr. Agarwal stressed that research is not just a component of agricultural education but is, in fact, pivotal to its development. He underscored the idea that research forms the backbone of advancements in agricultural knowledge and practices. The esteemed guest emphasized how research serves as a driving force behind the formulation of agricultural education policies. Through rigorous investigation and analysis, researchers contribute valuable insights that can guide the development of policies aimed at enhancing the quality and relevance of agricultural education. Dr. Agarwal highlighted the need for increased involvement of both students and faculty in research activities. He pointed out that active participation in research not only enhances the academic experience for students but also contributes to the overall growth and development of the agricultural education ecosystem.

**Prof. S.W. Akhtar**, the Hon'ble Chancellor and founder of Integral University and Chief Patron of the seminar appreciated the drive of the University for Excellence and stated that Integral University has been dedicated to nurturing the intellectual and growth of its students. The journey of the university has been marked by innovation, inclusivity and a relentless pursuit of academic excellence. It has been a matter of pride that the university has contribution to various fields of knowledge both on a national and international scale. He shared

his vision for the future of agricultural education. He discussed anticipated changes over the next decade, envisioning a globally competitive Agricultural education system. Professor Akhtar's address provided a forward-looking perspective, inspiring the audience.

### **Showcasing of Documentary on IAST Journey till date**

A documentary showcasing the journey of IAST was presented which provided a comprehensive glimpse into the institute's remarkable journey. It meticulously outlined the institute's milestones, showcasing the significant achievements attained over the years. Emphasizing its commitment to community development, the documentary shed light on the extension activities conducted in nearby villages, demonstrating the institute's dedication to uplifting rural communities through agricultural outreach programs. Moreover, the documentary highlighted the success stories of students, emphasizing the institute's role in fostering academic excellence and professional growth. The documentary concluded by underlining the institute's broader contributions to agricultural education, emphasizing its role in advancing knowledge, innovation, and practices in the field.

### **Release of "IAST Safarnama,"**

"IAST Safarnama," a coffee table book from the Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, Integral University was released by Hon'ble dignitaries which is a comprehensive showcase of the department's journey, highlighting various aspects such as its inception. It delves into the establishment and development of the Department of Agriculture, covering the foundational elements and the physical infrastructure that supports its operations also showcasing a holistic view of student life within the department. It encapsulates the multifaceted nature of the Department of Agriculture offering a visual and informational journey through its various endeavours and achievements.

### **Release of Agriculture Magazine "Integral Krishi Darpan"**

A biannual and bilingual magazine of IAST was released in this occasion. "Integral Krishi Darpan" transcends its identity as a agricultural magazine emanating from the Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, Integral University. It stands as a crucial asset for the agricultural community. Within the pages of this magazine, readers encounter a rich repository of information, insights and innovations capable of reshaping the agricultural panorama. More than just a publication, "Integral Krishi Darpan"

serves as a veritable treasure trove of knowledge, spanning a diverse array of topics. From the latest advancements in farming techniques to compelling success narratives from our industrious farmers, the magazine is a testament to the vibrancy and resilience inherent in our agricultural community. Its pages unfold as a narrative woven with the threads of agricultural wisdom, offering a profound exploration of contemporary practices, cutting-edge technologies, and the unwavering dedication of those who till the soil.

#### **Integral University Farmers Awards Ceremony:**

The Integral University Farmer's Awards ceremony was a poignant highlight of the event. Twenty-two exemplary farmers were recognized for their outstanding contributions. Their life stories, struggles, innovations, and achievements were eloquently presented, inspiring the audience. The awards also acknowledged the awardees' significant involvement in community development and initiatives aimed at educating and empowering fellow farmers.

Following this, **Prof. Saba Siddiqui**, the Head of the Department of Agriculture, IIAST extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all the dignitaries, participants and attendees for their presence and contributions to the event. Prof. Siddiqui urged all attendees to carry forward the spirit of collaboration that had been fostered during the seminar. She stressed the importance of the crucial role of a National Agriculture Education Policy. She highlighted that such a policy serves as a guiding framework for the development and enhancement of agricultural education at the national level. A well-crafted policy can address the evolving needs of the agricultural sector, promote research and innovation, and ensure the alignment of educational programs with the dynamic challenges and opportunities in agriculture. Prof. Siddiqui's advocacy for a robust National Agriculture Education Policy resonated with the broader goal of fostering excellence, inclusivity, and sustainability in agricultural education, ultimately contributing to the overall progress and resilience of the agricultural sector.

#### **Technical Session**

##### **M.S. Swaminathan Memorial Lecture**

The M.S. Swaminathan Memorial Lecture, delivered by Dr. R.C. Agrawal, DDG, ICAR, New Delhi, stands as a tribute to the eminent agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan. Dr. Agrawal, in his lecture, shared valuable insights and perspectives on contemporary agricultural challenges and innovations. The memorial lecture serves to honor Swaminathan's legacy and promotes the exchange of knowledge and ideas within the agricultural

community, fostering a continuum of expertise and inspiration.

**Prof. (Dr.) Biswarup Mehra**, Dean, Naini Agricultural Institute, SHUATS, Prayagraj provided insightful perspectives on the National Agriculture Education Policy. Firstly, he discussed the impact of government policies on agriculture, offering a critical analysis of their influence on the sector's development. Dr. Mehra also underscored the significance of recognizing and empowering women in agriculture, emphasizing the crucial role they play, and he highlighted the importance of incorporating gender inclusivity as a foundational principle in the National Agriculture Education Policy to ensure a more holistic and sustainable approach to agricultural education and development.

### **IIAST Agri- Expo**

The event featured a vibrant exhibition where various stalls were set up by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), ICAR institutes, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and individual farmers. These stalls served as dynamic showcases for the latest advancements in agriculture. KVKs and institutes presented cutting-edge research outcomes, innovative farming techniques, and technologies aimed at boosting agricultural productivity. FPOs brought forth their collective efforts in promoting sustainable agricultural practices, value addition, and market linkages. The exhibition not only provided a platform for knowledge exchange but also highlighted the collaborative synergy between research institutions, extension services, and farmers in advancing the agricultural landscape.

### **Museum Inauguration**

The agricultural museum of the Department of Agriculture at IIAST was inaugurated with great honor by our esteemed Chief Guest, Dr. R.C. Agarwal, Hon'ble DDG, Division of Agricultural Education, ICAR, New Delhi. The museum marks a significant milestone of IIAST, showcasing its commitment to preserving and sharing the rich history, evolution, and technological advancements in agriculture. Dr. Agarwal's presence underscored the recognition and support from a national authority, adding prestige to the event and highlighting the importance of agricultural education and its heritage at IIAST.

The National Seminar was orchestrated with great success, bearing testament to the exemplary guidance provided by our esteemed leaders. Prof. S.W. Akhtar, the Founder &

Chancellor of Integral University, Lucknow, whose visionary leadership set the foundation for this remarkable event, served as the Chief-Patron. Dr. Syed Nadeem Akhtar, Pro-Chancellor of Integral University, Lucknow, played a pivotal role in supporting and nurturing the seminar's growth as one of the esteemed Patrons along with Prof. Javed Musarrat, The Vice-Chancellor of Integral University, Lucknow, brought valuable insights and expertise to ensure the seminar's success. Syed Mohd. Fauzan Akhtar, Executive Director, Integral University, Syed Mohd. Adnan Akhtar, Executive Director, DIA, Integral University and Prof. Aqil Ahmad, Advisor to Honorable Chancellor Integral University. Under the collective guidance of these esteemed individuals, the National Seminar achieved its goals, fostering an environment of knowledge-sharing and collaborative discourse. Their unwavering commitment to the event's success was truly instrumental in making it a resounding triumph. The organizational framework for the seminar was effectively managed by a dedicated team of individuals in various key roles. The members of Managing Committee Prof. Dr. Mohd. Haris Siddiqui, Director and Registrar Integral University, Dr. Syed Aqeel Ahmad, Director, HRDC and Prof. Abdul Rahman Khan, COE, Integral University, provided valuable leadership and guidance. Convener Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head of the Department of Agriculture at IIAST, Integral University, Lucknow was overseeing various sessions and coordination of preceding events. The Organizing Committee included Dr. Malik Mobeen Ahmad, Dr. Salman Ahmad, Mr. Nadeem Khan, Dr. Deepti Srivastava, Dr. Usman Sayeed, Dr. Suhail Ahmad Khan, Dr. Ambreesh Kumar Singh and Dr. Akanksha Singh who collectively contributed to the seamless execution of the seminar. The seminar was effectively reported by Dr. Setu Ratnam and Dr. Akanksha Singh. The entire Program was beautifully anchored by Dr. Srishti Thakur. Their comprehensive coverage and insightful reporting greatly enriched the seminar proceedings. The National Seminar and Integral Farmer's Award Ceremony were resounding successes, with around 800 attendees actively participating. The event facilitated meaningful discussions, recognized agricultural excellence, and fostered collaboration in the field of agriculture. The presentations and discussions showcased the commitment of Integral University and IIAST to advancing agricultural education and honoring those who contribute significantly to the agricultural sector.

### **Glimpses of the Seminar**



























