



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

Brief report of Kisan Goshti organized by Department of Agriculture, IIAST on “Role of traditional knowledge and modern food science in the development of Processed Food”

"प्रोसेस्ड फूड के विकास में पारंपरिक ज्ञान और आधुनिक खाद्य विज्ञान की भूमिका"

The Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, organized a Kisan Goshti on topic “Role of traditional knowledge and modern food science in the development of Processed Food” at Paikramau Village on November 9, 2024, to highlight the synergy between traditional agricultural knowledge and modern food science. The Goshti aimed to empower farmers with insights to enhance the quality, longevity and marketability of their agricultural produce, thereby boosting their productivity and income. The goshti was designed to bridge the knowledge gap between time-tested farming methods and contemporary advancements in food processing, emphasizing the importance of adopting a blended approach for sustainable agricultural growth.

The goshti was conducted under the esteemed guidance of Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. The goshti brought together experts, faculty members, and students of the B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture program. The goshti was attended by 20 Farmers. Faculty members Dr. Salman Ahmad, Dr. Suhail Ahmad Khan, and Dr. Sanket Kumar played pivotal roles in engaging with the farmers from Paikramau and nearby areas. The initiative not only fostered direct interaction with the farming community but also provided students with hands-on exposure to agricultural extension practices.

Dr. Salman Ahmad delivered a comprehensive lecture on the relevance of traditional methods in enhancing the shelf life of agricultural products. He discussed techniques such as sun-drying, natural fermentation, and the use of organic preservatives, emphasizing their low cost and sustainability. By integrating these methods with modern practices, farmers could optimize the value of their produce without relying solely on expensive technologies. Dr. Suhail Ahmad Khan elaborated on the concept of value addition and its role in enhancing the economic viability of agricultural produce. He provided examples of turning raw farm products into market-ready processed goods such as pickles, jams, and juices. Dr. Suhail further emphasized the importance of marketing strategies, including branding and



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packaging, to attract urban consumers and fetch premium prices. His insights encouraged farmers to view their produce as a commodity with potential beyond immediate sale. Dr. Sanket Kumar introduced the farmers to the latest advancements in modern food science, including technologies like vacuum drying, cold storage, and advanced packaging techniques. He discussed how these innovations could minimize post-harvest losses and ensure that processed food meets quality standards required for larger markets. The event concluded with an interactive session where farmers actively participated, sharing their challenges and receiving tailored solutions. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from the participants highlighted the success of the Goshti in promoting practical and adoptable solutions for agricultural enhancement. This Kisan Goshti served as a vital platform to empower farmers with actionable knowledge, enabling them to integrate traditional wisdom with modern science to improve their livelihoods sustainably.

Glimpses of Kisan Goshti

