



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

Brief Report on Mint Quality Improvement Training Program organized in village Kumharpur

The Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow, remains steadfast in its mission to support and uplift the farming community through various capacity-building initiatives. Recognizing the significance of mint cultivation in the region and the need for quality enhancement to meet market standards, the **Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow**, in collaboration with the Spices Board India, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Regional Office, Barabanki organized a specialized one-day training program titled "**Mint Quality Improvement Training Program.**" This program was held on **January 23, 2025**, in **Kumharpur village** with the objective of equipping farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve the quality, yield, and marketability of mint. The training program aimed to address key aspects of mint cultivation, processing, quality enhancement, and value addition to ensure that farmers remain competitive in the evolving agricultural landscape. Experts provided insights into best agronomic practices, disease and pest management, post-harvest processing techniques, and essential quality parameters to enhance the value of mint products in both domestic and international markets. The program was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Sandeep Singh Yadav, Assistant Director of the Spices Board (Government of India), Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology and Dr. Saba Siddiqui, Head of the Department of Agriculture, IIAST.

The Training Program commenced with Dr. Ambrish Singh Yadav, Associate Professor, Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, delivering an insightful session on "Organic Farming for Sustainable Production." He highlighted the adverse effects of indiscriminate fertilizer use and improper agricultural practices, which lead to a decline in soil organic carbon and overall soil health. Dr. Yadav encouraged farmers to enhance soil fertility by incorporating farm waste, compost, green manure and vermicompost. He also elaborated on the scientific methods for preparing various organic fertilizers and emphasized the significance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in sustainable pest control. During his address, Dr. Yadav emphasized the economic significance of mint, clarifying that mint (*Mentha*) is a commercially valuable crop distinct from "pudina," which is commonly used as an herb. He described mint as one of the most important essential oil plants, extensively utilized in cosmetic, medicinal, and



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industrial applications. He further noted that India cultivates mint across 200,000 hectares, with Uttar Pradesh contributing 90% of the total production. Specifically, Barabanki is a major mint-producing region, where menthol mint is cultivated on approximately 80,000 hectares of land.

Mr. Sandeep Singh Yadav, Assistant Director, Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Regional Office, Barabanki, stressed the crucial role of mint quality improvement for extraction and export purposes. He introduced farmers to development schemes such as Mint Distillation Units, QGBG (Quality Gap Bridge Groups), and Exposure Visits under the QITP (Quality Improvement Training Program). Mr. Yadav pointed out that India cultivates 52 different spices, including mint, and leads globally in mint oil exports. He emphasized that Uttar Pradesh accounts for 85% of India's total mint cultivation area and provided an overview of various Spices Board India schemes aimed at enhancing mint cultivation, processing, and export standards, including Individual Farmer Mint Distillation Units and FPO Quality Gap Bridge Groups.

Following this, Dr. Nitish Kumar Pandey, Assistant Professor, delivered a session on Natural Farming, highlighting the environmental threats posed by climate change and excessive chemical use in agriculture. He explained how cattle-based natural farming practices can help restore the ecological balance. Dr. Pandey provided insights into the preparation and benefits of Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, Ghanamrit, and Dashparni, natural bio-enhancers derived from cow dung, urine, and plant-based inputs. He emphasized the role of livestock integration in sustainable farming systems.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of approximately 50 farmers and students. The training concluded with Dr. Nitish Kumar Pandey expressing gratitude to the scientists, experts, and participating farmers for their valuable contributions. The efforts of Field Manager Mr. Abhijit Srivastava and Supporting staff Mr. Faisal Kirmani were instrumental in ensuring the success of the event.

Glimpses of the program



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