



**Brief Report of Guest lecture on the topic "Can we exploit Sodic soils as a Goldmine in India?" Organized by Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (IIAST), Integral University Lucknow**

The Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow, organized a Guest Lecture on the topic "Can we exploit Sodic soils as a Goldmine in India?" on 4th February 2025 in the Seminar Hall, IIAST Building. The lecture was delivered by Mr. T.S. Rahi, Retd. Sr. Principal Scientist, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow. Mr. Rahi, an esteemed expert in soil science and land reclamation, provided valuable insights into the potential of sodic soils for agricultural and economic benefits.

Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, Lucknow, welcomed Mr. T.S. Rahi, who commenced the lecture by highlighting the challenges and opportunities associated with sodic soils in India. He elaborated on the various scientific techniques and management strategies that can transform these degraded lands into productive agricultural fields. His discussion emphasized the role of soil amendments, crop selection, and sustainable practices in rehabilitating sodic soils. Mr. Rahi explained the chemical and physical properties of sodic soils and their impact on crop growth. He discussed various soil reclamation techniques, including gypsum application, organic matter incorporation, and agroforestry models. He emphasized that with proper management, sodic soils can be utilized effectively for enhancing food security and rural development.

Mr. Rahi detailed the economic benefits of utilizing sodic soils and highlighted the role of government policies and technological interventions in soil restoration. He stressed the importance of interdisciplinary approaches, combining soil science, agronomy, and environmental management, to maximize the benefits of these lands. He also addressed emerging trends in soil reclamation and the future scope of research in this domain. He emphasized the necessity of promoting farmer awareness programs and policy-level interventions to ensure the sustainable use of sodic soils.

The students and faculty members gained valuable knowledge on how scientific advancements can turn these lands into a valuable agricultural resource. The lecture concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, where students actively engaged with the Guest, seeking clarity on various aspects of sodic soil management. His insightful responses and practical recommendations further enriched the learning experience of the attendees.

The program was conducted 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 lecture was effectively coordinated and moderated by Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed Khan, Assistant Professor, IIAST, while the

event's anchoring was skillfully handled by Dr. Srishti Thakur. This guest lecture served as a valuable academic initiative by the Department of Agriculture, significantly contributing to the knowledge and practical understanding of students and faculty members.

#### Glimpses of the Guest Lecture





 GPS Map Camera

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India  
Xx5v+j6g, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226021, India  
Lat 26.959243° Long 80.993473°  
04/02/2025 11:25 AM GMT +05:30

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