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

Report on IIAST wins first prize in Kisan Mela and Exhibition at Virendra Kumar Singh Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Unnao

On November 4, 2024, the Integral Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (IIAST) participated in the Silver Jubilee Celebration of Virendra Kumar Singh Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Unnao, at the Dhoarra center. For the past 25 years, KVK Unnao, under the leadership of Shri Ramesh Kumar Singh, has made remarkable contributions to the transformation of barren lands and the promotion of sustainable agriculture. The grand celebration, featuring a Kisan Mela and Agricultural Exhibition, was attended by state dignitaries, including the Honorable Horticulture Minister Shri Dinesh Pratap Singh as chief guest. Dr. Udham Singh Gautam, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) from the Division of Agricultural Extension, ICAR, also graced the event, bringing together agricultural experts, farmers, and institutions.IIAST was honored to receive the **First Prize** at the exhibition, acknowledging its innovative contributions to sustainable agriculture and community engagement. The IIAST team showcased a diverse range of agricultural practices and resources, aimed at advancing local farming techniques and enhancing productivity.

The agricultural exhibition by IIAST highlighted a diverse range of innovations and resources beneficial to farmers. The poultry showcase featured broiler breeds like Sonali, RIR, FFG, and Skylar, alongside the unique Kadaknath breed, illustrating poultry options that are well-suited to local climates and provide nutritional and economic benefits. IIAST also demonstrated the use of vermicompost and vermiwash, emphasizing their role in enhancing soil health and fertility as sustainable alternatives to chemical fertilizers. The display of millet seed varieties underscored their resilience to climate change and their nutritional advantages, promoting millet cultivation as a means to strengthen food security. Complementing this, over 70 different paddy varieties were on display, providing farmers with a wider choice of adaptable crop options. Azolla strains, showcased through live demonstrations, illustrated its effectiveness as a biofertilizer for improving soil fertility and water retention in crop fields, ultimately increasing yields and reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers. Additionally, IIAST students presented a range of value-added agricultural products they developed, including jams, jellies, squashes, pickles, chutneys, sauces, and fruit preserves. This display established the institute's commitment to agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship, showing how farmers can enhance profitability by diversifying their offerings.

Guided by Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean, IIAST, the team showcased a robust commitment to sustainable agriculture through practical demonstrations and innovations. Dr. Saba Siddiqui, Head of the Department of Agriculture, played a key role in curating IIAST’s cutting-edge display, featuring soil and crop management techniques. Dr. Malik Mobin had emphasized on the use of various biofertilizers to maintain soil fertility and crop minor nutrient management Dr. Khalid Habib highlighted sustainable soil fertility practices through

vermicompost and azolla. Mr. Nadeem Khan emphasized millet varieties and vermiwash for optimal crop production, while Farm Manager Mr. Abhijeet coordinated field demonstrations, ensuring that practical, cost-effective solutions like azolla in crop fields resonated with local farmers.

The event provided a platform for valuable knowledge sharing, allowing IIAST to connect with the agricultural community and share sustainable farming practices. The **First Prize** awarded to IIAST highlights its dedication to promoting environmental stewardship and supporting farmer livelihood through research-backed innovations. By presenting adaptable resources like poultry breeds, biofertilizers, and resilient crop varieties, IIAST reaffirms its commitment to practical solutions that uplift rural communities.

Glimpses of the exhibition

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

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

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

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