



**Report on Kisan Gosthi on “Role of Indigenous Practices in Soil and Climate Management” 29th April 2025**

The Department of Agriculture, IIAST, in association with the Environmental Law Society, Faculty of Law, Integral University organized a Kisan Gosthi on 29th April 2025. The outreach program was conducted at Khwaja Ka Purwa, Rajauli Village, Lucknow, and aimed to empower farmers with knowledge about indigenous agricultural practices that support soil conservation and climate resilience. The program saw the participation of local farmers, students, and faculty members.

Dr. P. Smriti Rao opened the discussion by emphasizing the importance of soil as a living system and explained how excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has degraded soil quality over time. She highlighted traditional practices like Use of farmyard manure (FYM) and vermicompost.

Dr. Nitish Kumar addressed the impact of climate change on rural agriculture and how indigenous practices naturally adapt to local climate variability. He discussed Indigenous crop-livestock integration systems, Cultivation of drought-tolerant indigenous varieties of millets, pulses, and oilseeds and Traditional water conservation techniques such as johads, check dams, and rainwater harvesting pits.

Dr. Akshay Kumar highlighted the role of customary laws and community knowledge in resource management, government schemes and mobile applications available to farmers to promote easy access to organic farming practices and agricultural advisories.

Dr. Manzoor Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Law emphasized the significance of environmental legislation in supporting sustainable agricultural practices. He explained how laws related to biodiversity conservation, water use, and pollution control play a pivotal role in preserving the ecological balance crucial for farming.

The students discussed the importance of grassroots legal awareness, highlighting how even small-scale farmers can benefit from understanding laws that promote eco-friendly practices. The

session was highly interactive. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 35 students and over 25 farmers. Farmers actively participated by sharing their experiences with traditional methods of composting, pest control using neem extracts, and traditional seed preservation. The speakers addressed questions and provided recommendations tailored to the local agro-climatic conditions of Rajauli village. The program successfully achieved its goal of reviving awareness about the scientific value of indigenous practices and inspiring the farming community to adopt more resilient, environmentally sustainable methods. Participants appreciated the university's outreach efforts and requested more such sessions in the future.

The Department of Agriculture, IIAST, extends heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Mohd. Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Saba Siddiqui, HoD, Department of Agriculture, IIAST and Prof. (Dr.) Naseem Ahmad, Head/Dean, Department of Law, Integral University, for their unwavering support and guidance in organizing this Kisan Gosthi. Their vision and leadership were instrumental in bringing together diverse academic perspectives and empowering the farming community through meaningful dialogue on indigenous practices, environmental law, and sustainable agriculture.

### **Glimpses of the Goshti**



