



Brief Report on Kisan Goshthi on “Post-Harvest Management and Value Addition in Fruits & Vegetables”

The Department of Agriculture continues to uphold its commitment to the holistic development of the farming community by facilitating the dissemination of relevant agricultural knowledge and fostering capacity-building through targeted skill development programs. In pursuit of this mission, the Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, successfully organized a Kisan Goshthi on 14th May 2025 at Dashauli Village which was centered around the highly pertinent theme: “Post-Harvest Management and Value Addition in Fruits & Vegetables”, with the primary objective of creating awareness among farmers about the critical need to minimize post-harvest losses and to empower them with practical knowledge on enhancing income through value-added agricultural practices. This initiative reflects the institution’s ongoing efforts to support sustainable agricultural development and rural livelihood enhancement. The session was led by distinguished faculty members; Dr. Faria Fatima, Dr. Udayveer, and Dr. Devi Darshan, who served as resource persons and shared their in-depth knowledge and practical experiences with the participants.

Dr. Faria Fatima, Associate Professor in Agriculture at IIAST, welcomed the farmers and opened the Kisan Goshthi by explaining the importance of Post-Harvest Management in simple terms. She told the farmers how doing things like harvesting at the right time, sorting the produce carefully, and storing it properly can keep fruits and vegetables fresh and good for selling. She emphasized that by reducing losses after harvest, farmers can earn more money and help ensure there is enough food for everyone. After this, Dr. Udayveer spoke about how farmers can increase the value of their fruits and vegetables by making products like dried fruits, pickles, jams, and squashes. He also explained how proper packaging matters and informed farmers about government programs that offer training and support to start small processing businesses, which can create jobs and improve life in villages. Following this, Dr. Devi Darshan shared useful, easy-to-follow tips with the farmers, showing them how to handle fruits and vegetables after harvest and how to cool, sort, and store different fruits and vegetables properly. His session was very lively with demonstrations and easy-to-understand pictures, helping farmers learn by doing.

The Goshthi witnessed the participation of over 40 attendees, including farmers, students, and local leaders. Local farmers actively engaged in the session, raising pertinent queries and sharing on-the-ground experiences. This facilitated a dynamic exchange of knowledge between the resource persons and the farming community, enhancing the practical relevance of the discussions. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks to the experts for their valuable insights and to the farmers of Dashauli Village for their enthusiastic involvement. By providing actionable guidance on post-harvest management and value addition, the Kisan Goshthi effectively advanced the goal of promoting sustainable and profitable agriculture.

Glimpses



