Report on Alumni Interaction Program
Date: 11ᵗʰ April 2025

The Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, Lucknow, organized an insightful Alumni Interaction Program on 11th April 2025 in the Seminar Hall. The event centered around a panel discussion on the theme "Artificial Intelligence is the Key to Sustainable Agriculture", bringing together alumni and current students for an engaging and thought-provoking dialogue. The program commenced with warm encouraging words from Prof. Saba Siddiqui, HoD, Department of Agriculture, IIAST, who welcomed the esteemed alumni and students, emphasizing the importance of bridging academic learning with practical field experience.

A total of six esteemed alumni added great value to the program with their participation. Among them, four alumni—Ms. Laxmi Suryavanshi, Agriculture Field Officer and Mr. Krishna Avtar Singh, Territory Manager, Gharda Chemicals, both graduates of B.Sc. Agriculture, along with Ms. Ritika Yadav, Agronomist, Gramik, an M.Sc. Agronomy alumna, and Mr. Indrasen Yadav, Agronomist, Agri Baazar, graced the event in person, engaging actively with students and farmers. Additionally, Mr. Amit Singh, Territory Manager, Bayer Cropscience, Gorakhpur and Mr. Amit Pandey, Assistant Manager, Parle Biscuits, Rajasthan both alumni of the MBA Agribusiness Management program, joined the session virtually, sharing insightful perspectives on agribusiness and modern agricultural trends through the online platform.

The session began with the alumni sharing their professional experiences, challenges, and insights into the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in agriculture. They highlighted real-world applications of AI in areas such as crop monitoring, precision farming, pest control, and climate-smart agriculture. Their narratives offered students valuable exposure to emerging technologies and inspired them to explore future-ready agricultural practices.

Following the introductory sharing session, a panel discussion was held featuring the alumni along with three B.Sc. 3rd year students—Pragya, Azaruddin Ayubi, and Sakshi Kumari, who actively contributed their perspectives and engaged in meaningful dialogue on the integration of AI in agriculture. The panel explored AI's transformative potential in promoting sustainable

farming systems, enhancing productivity, and addressing challenges like labor shortage, water scarcity, and soil health monitoring. The students actively participated, posing relevant questions and engaging in meaningful discussion with the alumni. The event was co-moderated by Dr. Pallavi Srivastava and Dr. P. Smriti Rao, who ensured the discussion remained focused and interactive, encouraging both alumni and students to contribute their views.

A total of 60 students attended the program. The session proved to be highly enriching, fostering academic-industry linkages and inspiring the next generation of agriculture professionals to embrace innovation and sustainability through the integration of AI in agriculture. The program was successfully coordinated and conducted by Dr. P. Smriti Rao, Dr. Salman Ahmad and Mr. Mohd. Said, Members- IIAST Alumni Committee. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. P. Smriti Rao, expressing gratitude to the authorities, participating alumni, students, and organizing team for their valuable contributions and enthusiastic participation.

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