



Report on Guest Lecture on “Idea Ignition: Exploring Start-Up Opportunities in Agriculture”

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Club of the Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST), Integral University successfully organized a guest lecture on “Idea Ignition: Exploring Start-Up Opportunities in Agriculture” on 16th April 2026 in the Seminar Hall. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Ramesh Chandra Srivastava, Former Vice Chancellor of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), Pusa, Bihar, who was the distinguished speaker for the session. The programme aimed to motivate students towards innovation, entrepreneurship, and exploring emerging opportunities in the agricultural sector.

The session commenced with a warm welcome of the guest speaker and participants. Dr. Ramesh Chandra Srivastava delivered an insightful lecture highlighting the growing importance of agri-startups and agribusiness innovations in modern agriculture. He emphasized the need for innovative thinking, technology adoption, and entrepreneurial skills to transform traditional agriculture into a sustainable and profitable enterprise. The speaker elaborated on various start-up opportunities in agriculture, including value addition, agri-processing, precision farming, and digital agriculture platforms.

During the lecture, the speaker shared his vast experience and provided practical insights into establishing and managing agri-based enterprises. He encouraged students to identify local agricultural problems and convert them into viable business opportunities. The importance of government support schemes, incubation centres, and skill development programmes in promoting agri-entrepreneurship was also discussed. The lecture inspired students to think beyond conventional employment and consider entrepreneurship as a promising career option.

The lecture aligns with key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)** by promoting entrepreneurship and employment generation in agriculture; **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)** through encouragement of agri-innovation, startups, and technology-driven solutions; and **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** by supporting sustainable and efficient agricultural practices. Additionally, the focus on value addition and responsible agribusiness contributes to **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**.

The session was highly interactive and thought-provoking, with active participation from students and faculty members. More than 50 students and 20 faculty members attended the lecture and engaged in meaningful discussions. The participants showed great enthusiasm and interest in exploring innovative ideas and entrepreneurial ventures in agriculture.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Prof. Mohd. Haris Siddiqui, Director, Department of Agriculture, IIAST and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. The event was successfully coordinated by Dr. Suhail Ahmad Khan and Dr. Zeeshan

Ahmed Khan, Assistant Professors, Department of Agriculture, IAST. The lecture concluded with a formal vote of thanks expressing sincere gratitude to the guest speaker for his valuable insights and inspiring interaction.

Glimpse



