



**Brief Report of National Farmers' Day and Farmers' Felicitation Programme organized by
Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, Integral University, Lucknow on
24th December, 2024**

National Farmers' Day, observed on December 23rd to commemorate the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the fifth Prime Minister of India, celebrates the invaluable contributions of farmers to the nation. It is a moment to recognize their dedication in ensuring food security, economic stability, and sustainable agricultural growth. In a country where agriculture forms the backbone of the economy and sustains a majority of the population, this day highlights the need to support farmers through innovation, awareness, and recognition. Following the same spirit, The Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow, organized National Farmers Day celebration on December 24, 2024, This initiative aimed to acknowledge and honor the efforts of progressive farmers while fostering a deeper engagement between the academic community and farming stakeholders.

Welcome address

The event commenced with a warm and formal inaugural address, featuring a floral welcome by **Prof. Mohammad Haris Siddiqui**, Director of IIAST. Prof. Siddiqui extended heartfelt gratitude to the dignitaries, farmers, and participants for their presence and active participation. Prof. Siddiqui also provided an insightful overview of the genesis of Integral University, highlighting its dedication to advancing agricultural education and research. His address set an inspiring tone for the program, fostering an atmosphere of learning and collaboration.

The Illustrious Journey of IIAST: A Documentary Presentation

A documentary showcasing the illustrious journey of IIAST was presented, offering an extensive and engaging portrayal of the institute's remarkable evolution and milestones. The film meticulously charted the institute's trajectory, highlighting significant achievements that have defined its legacy. It emphasized IIAST's steadfast commitment to community upliftment, vividly illustrating the impactful extension activities conducted in nearby villages and demonstrating the institute's unwavering dedication to the betterment of rural communities through its innovative agricultural outreach programs. The documentary poignantly spotlighted the success stories of students, portraying their journeys from academic excellence to professional triumphs, thereby emphasizing the institute's pivotal role in nurturing talent and fostering comprehensive growth. It showcased IIAST's multifaceted contributions to agricultural education, emphasizing its leadership in advancing cutting-edge knowledge, pioneering innovation, and promoting best practices within the field.

Address by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor

During the National Farmers' Day and Farmers' Felicitation Programme, Prof. Javed Musarrat warmly welcomed the esteemed dignitaries, farmers, and participants, expressing his heartfelt appreciation for their invaluable contributions. He emphasized that farmers are the true stewards of the land, whose relentless efforts sustain food security and drive agricultural progress. Acknowledging the dedicated work of Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, he highlighted IIAST's significant accreditation by ICAR, which highlights the institution's commitment to agricultural excellence. He admired the ongoing community service initiatives and collaborations with neighboring villages, fostering knowledge exchange and rural development. Prof. Musarrat spoke about the evolution of agriculture from traditional methods (Agriculture 2.0) to modern innovations (Agriculture 5.0), emphasizing the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, blockchain, drones, and precision farming. He illustrated how IT and big data in agriculture facilitate informed decision-making, optimize resource management, and help combat climate change. Discussing cutting-edge advancements, he highlighted vertical farming, hydroponics, and smart water management technologies as solutions to the challenges of shrinking arable land, climate-resilient agriculture (CRA), and reduced crop productivity. Stressing the urgency of addressing global hunger and food security, he underlined the significance of farm automation and natural resource conservation. Finally, he called for greater synergy between academia and farmers to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring a resilient and sustainable agricultural future.

Dr. Jitendra Kumar Tomar's Address: Empowering Farmers Through State Initiatives

Dr. Jitendra Kumar Tomar, Director of the Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh, graced the event as the special guest and delivered an insightful address. He highlighted Uttar Pradesh's remarkable achievements in agriculture, particularly its status as the state with the highest wheat productivity in the country. Additionally, he emphasized the state's significant advancements in the production of oilseeds and pulses, contributing to enhanced food security and self-sufficiency. Dr. Tomar also shed light on the growing ecosystem of agricultural startups in Uttar Pradesh, which are driving innovation in farming techniques, value addition, and agribusiness. He emphasized the importance of maintaining high food quality standards and ensuring that agricultural produce from the state meets both domestic and international market demands. Acknowledging the role of technology and entrepreneurship in modern agriculture, he encouraged young farmers and agripreneurs to embrace new opportunities, ultimately contributing to the transformation of Uttar Pradesh's agricultural landscape.

Address by Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor

Dr. Sayed Nadeem Akhtar, Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor of Integral University, shared his visionary outlook on the future of agriculture, emphasizing the pressing challenges posed by climate change and the need for sustainable solutions. In his address, he highlighted Integral University's commitment to environmental conservation, describing its lush green campus as a symbol of sustainability and ecological harmony. He emphasized that the university not only fosters academic excellence but also serves as a model for responsible environmental stewardship. Dr. Akhtar spoke about the university's initiatives aimed at increasing agricultural productivity in the local region. He underscored the importance of empowering farmers with modern knowledge, techniques, and resources to enhance crop yields while maintaining

environmental balance. In this regard, he announced the opening of a dedicated Farmers' Clinic for nearby villages. This initiative will provide expert guidance, soil testing facilities, crop disease diagnostics, and modern farming solutions to local farmers, ensuring that they receive timely assistance to improve productivity and profitability. Furthermore, he stressed the need to strengthen organic farming practices and reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers. He advocated for a shift towards organic production, promoting sustainable agriculture that not only preserves soil health but also produces high-quality, chemical-free food. Encouraging farmers to adopt biofertilizers, composting, and eco-friendly pest control methods, he emphasized that reducing chemical fertilizer usage would lead to long-term benefits for both agricultural productivity and environmental conservation.

Address by Dr. Udham Singh Gautam

Dr. Udham Singh Gautam, Honorable DDG of the Division of Agricultural Extension, ICAR, New Delhi, was the distinguished guest at the event. In his comprehensive address, he outlined transformative initiatives aimed at revolutionizing rural prosperity in Uttar Pradesh. He began by highlighting efforts to enhance vegetable and fruit productivity through strategic collaborations with NITI Aayog and targeted technology transfer and extension services by ICAR. Dr. Gautam emphasized the value of data collected from 7,000 farmers, which has spurred the growth of small enterprises and driven crop diversification, improved food nutrition, value addition, and processing innovations. He also discussed key government initiatives such as Kisan Sarthi, which has registered over 9 crore farmers to decrease production costs, and the integration of 89 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Uttar Pradesh with Panchayat-level common service centers. These centers, along with Krishi e-Nidanshala services from KVKs, now provide online solutions for animal health issues, demonstrating a significant step toward agricultural digitalization. Looking ahead, Dr. Gautam projected that by 2047, farmers would become true entrepreneurs, equipped with digital skills and entrepreneurship training supported by the new education policy's 3 to 6-month training modules. He concluded by showcasing modern farming innovations such as automated polyhouses, hydroponics, and aeroponics, and noted the increasing participation of women in agriculture and cottage industries (kuteer udhyog). These advancements, he asserted, are set to drive sustainable growth and transform the agricultural landscape of Uttar Pradesh into a model of resilience and global competitiveness.

Address by chief guest Shri. Manoj Kumar Singh, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh

Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, was the chief guest at the event, where he highlighted the state's significant strides in agricultural development. He emphasized the importance of enhancing Uttar Pradesh's production status in agriculture, underlining the state's role as a major contributor to the nation's food grain production. With its fertile Indo-Gangetic plains, Uttar Pradesh is among the top producers of wheat, rice, sugarcane, and pulses. The state has consistently demonstrated excellence in agricultural yield, ensuring food security for millions across the country. Shri Singh also drew attention to Uttar Pradesh's growing export efficiencies in agricultural commodities. He highlighted the surge in exports of rice, mangoes, vegetables, and processed foods, showcasing the state's ability to meet international standards. He noted that initiatives like improved cold chain infrastructure, government export subsidies, and the establishment of dedicated export zones have significantly boosted the state's agricultural exports. The development of Agricultural Export Zones (AEZs) in Uttar Pradesh has played a pivotal role in enhancing the value chain of commodities like

mangoes in Malihabad, Basmati rice in western Uttar Pradesh, and horticultural crops in Bundelkhand. These zones have helped farmers and agripreneurs access international markets and maintain high-quality standards. In addition, Shri Singh lauded the evolving startup ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh, which is fostering agripreneurship. He mentioned several inspiring examples, such as agritech startups leveraging artificial intelligence for precision farming and drone technology for pest control and crop monitoring. Companies like AgriBazaar and Farmkart have made significant contributions to connecting farmers with buyers and providing affordable farming solutions. The state government's startup policies and incubators, such as the UP Startup Conclave, have encouraged young entrepreneurs to develop innovative solutions to agricultural challenges. He also emphasized the importance of food security and its governance, mentioning the robust implementation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Uttar Pradesh. While acknowledging progress, he expressed concern over the monopoly of large corporations in the agriculture sector, cautioning that it could marginalize small farmers. Shri Singh called for policies that ensure equitable growth and support for smallholder farmers to counterbalance the influence of big agribusinesses. Further, Shri Singh highlighted advancements in remote sensing and mapping of arable soils in Uttar Pradesh. This technology is being used to assess soil health, identify crop suitability, and optimize land use for agricultural production. The state is leveraging geospatial technologies for efficient land management, which is expected to enhance productivity and promote sustainable farming practices. In his concluding remarks, Shri Singh reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting agriculture as the backbone of Uttar Pradesh's economy.

Blessings by Prof. Syed Waseem Akhtar, Hon'ble Chancellor and Founder, Integral University

Prof. Syed Waseem Akhtar, Hon'ble Chancellor and Founder of Integral University, extended his heartfelt blessings to all the participants at the National Farmers' Day and Farmers' Felicitations Programme. He also congratulated the Department of Agriculture, IAST for earning the prestigious accreditation from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). In his inspiring address, he celebrated the dedication and resilience of the farmers, recognizing them as the cornerstone of India's agricultural prosperity. He lauded the meticulously organized exhibitions and displays by various agricultural input companies, which showcased innovative products and cutting-edge technologies that are crucial for modernizing farming practices. The FPOS exposition, in particular, was highlighted as a significant platform that brought together stakeholders from across the agricultural spectrum, fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration. Prof. Akhtar also spoke passionately about Farmers Clinic India, describing it as a veritable haven of resources that supports farmers at every step of their journey. He emphasized that such comprehensive support systems are instrumental in empowering farmers with the tools and insights they need to thrive. According to him, with the wealth of resources available and the collaborative spirit evident at these events, India has the potential to emerge as a Vishvaguru—a global leader in agriculture. Reflecting on the guiding principles of Integral University, Prof. Akhtar mentioned that the institution adheres to three core values: humanity, patriotism, and what he termed as personal religion—a commitment to individual spiritual growth and integrity. These values, he asserted, are integral not only to the ethos of the university but also to the broader mission of nurturing a society where agriculture and innovation go hand in hand to build a prosperous and sustainable future.

IIAST to Host National Conference on Smart Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, proudly unveiled the brochure for the National Conference on **"Unlocking Artificial Intelligence and Robotics-Driven Smart Agriculture for Viksit Bharat"** on National Farmers Day. This significant release highlights the institution's commitment to revolutionizing agriculture through cutting-edge technologies like AI and robotics, aiming to empower farmers and transform the agricultural landscape of India. By fostering innovation and smart farming solutions, the conference seeks to contribute towards building a self-reliant and prosperous nation. The conference will delve into the transformative potential of emerging technologies like AI, ML, and robotics in revolutionizing Indian agriculture. Key thematic areas will include drones in agriculture, AI/ML applications, robotics in farming, indoor farming techniques, data-driven agriculture, and the future of the sector. The conference aims to bring together researchers, scientists, industry experts, and policymakers to share knowledge, explore solutions, and foster collaborations to drive the development of sustainable and efficient agricultural practices. IIAST, accredited by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is a leading institution in agricultural education and research, committed to advancing agricultural science and technology for a prosperous and sustainable India.

Integral university farmers award ceremony

The Integral University Farmer's Awards ceremony was a significant highlight, celebrating the contributions and achievements of 22 exemplary farmers. Their inspiring life stories, struggles, and innovations were presented, emphasizing their role in advancing agriculture and community development. Among the awardees, Smt. Naziya Khaton from Shivnath, Sitapur, was recognized for her expertise in creating value-added products from water hyacinth. Himanshu Singh, also from Sitapur, excelled in traditional farming of paddy, sugarcane, and wheat. Shri Om Prakash Maurya, the "Honey Man" of Pahadpur, Hardoi, showcased exceptional apiculture skills, while Shri Pradeep Dixit from Mahua Danda, Hardoi, was honored for his dedication to sesame cultivation. Shri Ashish Kumar Yadav from Kakrari Kheda, Unnao, set benchmarks in dairy farming, and Shri Gambhir Singh of Bighapur, Unnao, contributed significantly to millet cultivation, particularly Sawan and Kodo. Shri Rajesh Gupta from Barabanki was lauded for his expertise in button mushroom cultivation, earning the Governor's Award in 2023. Ajit Kumar, a young and innovative farmer from Barabanki, developed a pioneering artificial insemination technique to boost honey production by 30-35%. This ceremony celebrated their remarkable efforts in transforming agriculture and empowering fellow farmers.

Integral university KVKs' and FPOs' awards

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have long been at the forefront of agricultural development, working tirelessly to support farmers and improve rural agriculture. These institutions play a pivotal role in vocational training, on-farm research, and the transfer of the latest technologies, serving as beacons of hope and guidance for farmers across the nation. Their efforts have contributed immensely to the overall rural development, ensuring that modern agricultural practices reach even the remotest areas. As part of the National Farmers Day celebrations, IIAST, Integral University proudly felicitated the esteemed members of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for their exceptional contributions to agricultural innovation and farmer empowerment. Specifically, their vital role in coordinating and executing the successful Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWEX) programme for the B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students, offered by the Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University. the KVKs from various

regions were honored: KVK Hardoi-II and KVK Haidergarh, Barabanki for their outstanding work in rural agricultural training, KVK IISR for their contribution to on-farm research and technology transfer, KVK Mankapur, Gonda and KVK Sultanpur-I for their continuous efforts in improving agricultural practices in their respective regions, KVK Sitapur-II and KVK Dhaura, Unnao for their role in bridging the gap between farmers and innovative farming techniques, and KVK Bharaich-I and KVK Bharaich-II for their relentless commitment to empowering local farmers with modern agricultural tools and techniques.

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) have played a pivotal role in empowering farmers and promoting collective growth, and it was great honor to felicitate them. There were 48 FPOs' participated in the expo. Their unwavering efforts in enhancing market access and fostering sustainable agricultural practices are truly commendable and deserve to be recognized. These organizations have worked tirelessly to ensure that farmers can benefit from collective strength, improved market linkages, and shared knowledge, leading to better economic opportunities and agricultural advancement. The organizing committee presented mementos to the following esteemed representatives of FPOs for their remarkable contributions: Mr. Ashok Gupta of Biswa Annadata FPO, Biswa, Sitapur; Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh of FPO Chandpur Sidhauri; Mr. Gouri Shankar of FPO Chinhat Krishak Utthan, Lucknow; Dr. Ashwani Kumar Singh, Sr. Scientist & Head of FPO, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Haidergarh, Barabanki; Niraj Patel of FPO Ramashrey Agro Producer Company Limited; Richa Rajput of FPO Hardoi Kisan Producer Company Limited; Shiv Kumar of FPO Navjyoti Kisan Producer Limited; and Manish Kumar of FPO Mohanlalganj Krishak Vikas PCL.

Poster making and poster presentation competition under the theme “Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food

The Department of Agriculture at IIAST organized a poster-making and presentation competition to engage students and highlight their talents. Around 30 undergraduate students participated in the poster-making competition, where Himanshi Patel secured first place for her creative depiction of agricultural themes, followed by Shreyeshi Dewan in second place. In the poster presentation competition, approximately 10 PG and Ph.D. students showcased their research. Umar Musa, Mohammad Goni, Sandeep Kumar Singh, and Akshay Kumar won first prize for their exceptional presentation on agricultural innovations, while Priyanka Tiwari and Sandeep Kumar Yadav claimed second place for their insightful solutions to agricultural challenges. The event was judged by a distinguished panel, including Prof. Syed Misbahul Hasan, Prof. Aisha Kamal, Prof. Roohi, and Prof. Monowar Alam Khalid, who praised the students for their creativity, research, and dedication to advancing agricultural awareness.

University mementos presentation

The event honored Dr. U. S. Gautam, Honorable Deputy Director General, Division of Agricultural Extension, ICAR, and Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, with prestigious university mementos.

Vote of Thanks by Prof. Saba Siddiqui, HoD, IIAST, Integral University

he event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head of the Department of Agriculture, IIAST. She expressed gratitude to the guests, faculty, students, and organizers for their

contributions to the event's success and emphasized the importance of collaboration between academia, research, and the farming community in advancing agriculture. Prof. Siddiqui praised the university's commitment to inspiring agricultural development and highlighted the department's recent ICAR accreditation as a milestone achievement. Her remarks underscored the vital role of farmers and the need for sustainable agricultural innovation.

Integral Farmers' expo

The event featured a vibrant exhibition with stalls set up by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), agricultural institutes, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and individual farmers. This event was inaugurated by Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Dr Udham Singh and Prof. Syed Waseem Akhtar, Hon'ble Chancellor jointly. These stalls served as dynamic platforms to showcase the latest advancements in agriculture. KVKs and institutes highlighted cutting-edge research, innovative farming methods, and technologies designed to enhance agricultural productivity. FPOs demonstrated their collective efforts in promoting sustainable practices, value addition, and market linkages. Individual farmers shared their real-world experiences, success stories, and best practices. The exhibition fostered knowledge exchange and highlighted the collaborative synergy between research institutions, extension services, and farmers in driving agricultural progress. The exhibition brought together a wide range of exhibitors, including prominent research organizations such as the Regional Central Integrated Pest Management Centre, CSIR-CIMAP, CSIR-NBRI, ICAR-NBFGR, ICAR-IISR, and ICAR-CISH, all from Lucknow, showcasing advancements in agriculture, horticulture, and pest management. Krishi Vigyan Kendras from Hardoi, Bahraich, Barabanki, Sitapur, and Unnao highlighted regional agricultural innovations. Esteemed FPOs such as Biswa Annadata, Chandpur Sidhauri, Chinhat Krishak Utthan, and others emphasized collective farming efforts. Leading companies like Shriram Fertilizers, IFFCO, National Seeds Corporation, and Microplex Agro-Chemicals displayed agricultural inputs and solutions. Notable private ventures, including Smart V Farms, Royal Honey and Bee Farming Products, and Jain Irrigation Systems, demonstrated modern farming technologies. The event also featured machinery providers like Eicher Tractor, Shiva Ji Machinery, and Falcon Garden Tools, along with value-added services from organizations like the Aga Khan Foundation and Kavita Nursery. Together, these exhibitors reflected a comprehensive synergy of research, innovation, and practical farming solutions.

The National Farmers' Day and Farmers' award ceremony at IIAST, Integral University, concluded on a high note, reflecting the institute's commitment to fostering collaboration between academia and the farming community. The event successfully celebrated the vital role of farmers, emphasized the importance of innovation and sustainability in agriculture, and highlighted the impact of collective efforts in addressing contemporary challenges. Through insightful discussions, inspiring addresses, and the launch of initiatives like the National Conference on Smart Agriculture, the program reinforced the need for empowering farmers and advancing agricultural practices for a prosperous and sustainable future. A total footfall of approximately 1300 farmers were seen on the event. This event was successfully hosted by Dr Faria Fatima and Dr Srishti Thakur and report compilation was done by Dr Setu Ratnam and Dr Akanksha Singh.

Glimpses of the event



