



Brief Report of Kisan Goshti organized by Department of Agriculture, IIAST on “Zero Budget Natural Farming: A Profit Boosting Path for Viksit Bharat 2047” in Basha Village

The Department of Agriculture, IIAST, plays a pivotal role in empowering farmers through financial, technical, and market support, while promoting sustainable and innovative agricultural practices. Through its goshti, training and extension programs, the department educates farmers on modern farming techniques, optimal resource utilization, pest and disease control, and sustainable agriculture. In alignment with its mission to enhance farmer welfare and rural prosperity, the Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST), organized a Kisan Goshti on 29 April 2025 in Basaha village on the topic “**Zero Budget Natural Farming: A Profit Boosting Path for Viksit Bharat 2047.**” The program aimed to inform farmers about the principles and practical applications of Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), a holistic and environmentally-friendly farming method.

Dr. Nadeem Khan, addressed the gathering and explained the concept of Zero Budget Natural Farming. He emphasized the importance of using natural inputs such as **Jeevamrut**, **Bijamrit**, and **mulching**, highlighting how these techniques can significantly reduce input costs, enhance soil fertility, and restore ecological balance. He urged farmers to adopt ZBNF as a low-risk, high-benefit alternative to conventional chemical-intensive agriculture. Dr. Zeeshan Ahmad Khan, elaborated on the integration of ZBNF with livestock management. He discussed how cow-based farming, especially the use of native breeds, contributes to the success of ZBNF by providing essential bio-inputs. He explained the role of animals in nutrient recycling, land preparation, and maintaining ecological sustainability. Dr. Khan also emphasized the economic viability of ZBNF when combined with integrated livestock farming systems. Dr. Ruqaiya Bano, focused on the economic and policy support available for farmers practicing ZBNF. She informed farmers about various government schemes and subsidies that encourage the adoption of natural farming. She explained how ZBNF reduces dependency on external inputs, thus lowering the cost of cultivation and improving profit margins. Dr. Bano also mentioned the emerging market demand for chemical-free produce, which opens new income opportunities for ZBNF adopters.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology, and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture,

IIAST. The farmers of Basaha village participated enthusiastically, expressing keen interest in learning about Zero Budget Natural Farming. They interacted with the faculty, asked relevant questions, and explored the feasibility of applying these techniques on their farms. The goshti was attended by 22 farmers.

To assess the impact of the event, students conducted feedback sessions with the participants. The responses indicated high satisfaction levels among the farmers, who appreciated the well-organized event and the actionable insights shared by the experts. Many expressed their willingness to experiment with ZBNF on a small scale initially and expand based on the results.

The successful conduct of the Kisan Goshti reaffirmed IIAST's commitment to equipping farmers with sustainable and profitable farming solutions, thereby contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Glimpses of goshti



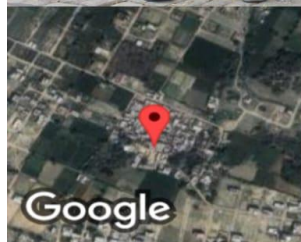
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