

**Brief report on Kisan Goshti organized by Department of Agriculture,  
IIAST in Palka Village on “Water Efficient Irrigation Practices for  
Horticultural Crops”**

**“बागवानी फसलों के लिए जल-कुशल सिंचाई विधियाँ”**

To promote sustainable horticultural practices and address the growing concern of water scarcity in agriculture, the Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, Lucknow organized a **Kisan Goshti** on **26th April 2025** at **Palka Village**. The theme of the Goshti, “Water Efficient Irrigation Practices for Horticultural Crops,” was selected to create awareness among farmers about judicious water use in horticulture. With increasing pressure on freshwater resources and the high water demand of horticultural crops, such interactive knowledge-sharing sessions are essential to empower farmers with practical and science-backed irrigation techniques. The Goshti was observed under the guidance of Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Director, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. The faculty coordinators Dr. Khalid Habib, Dr. P.N. Verma, Dr Akanksha Singh, Dr. Abhineet and Dr. Sampurnanand along with supporting staff Mr. Syed Faisal Ahmad Kirmani shared valuable insights regarding effective water-saving practices in crop cultivation.

Dr. Khalid Habib discussed mulching techniques as a supplementary method to enhance water efficiency, explaining how organic and plastic mulches help conserve soil moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature. He encouraged the use of locally available biodegradable materials for cost-effective implementation. Dr. P.N. Verma emphasized the importance of scheduling irrigation based on crop needs, cautioning against over- or under-irrigation, which adversely affects crop health and yield. He introduced farmers to the concept of evapotranspiration and crop water requirement charts, along with simple tools to monitor soil moisture. Dr. Akanksha Singh provided insights into the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), which aims to ensure "Har Khet Ko Pani" through micro-irrigation methods like drip and sprinkler systems. She informed farmers about financial assistance, the application process, and eligibility criteria, urging them to adopt water-saving technologies under the scheme. Dr. Abhineet explained the integration of rainwater harvesting with micro-irrigation, presenting models of rooftop and field-level rainwater collection systems suitable for small and medium holdings, and emphasized its role in

sustainable horticulture. Dr. Sampurnanand highlighted drip irrigation as one of the most efficient methods for horticultural crops, detailing its benefits in delivering water directly to the root zone, minimizing evaporation, and enhancing plant growth. He also spoke about fertigation, which combines irrigation and fertilization for precise nutrient delivery. Collectively, these expert discussions provided farmers with comprehensive knowledge on modern, sustainable, and water-efficient irrigation techniques.

The Kisan Goshti was a significant step towards empowering farmers in Palaka Village with knowledge and tools to adopt Water Efficient Irrigation Practices. The Goshti was attended by 23 farmers and 14 students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture. The interactive session allowed farmers to discuss their challenges and seek practical solutions from experts. The active participation of students provided them with real-world learning opportunities, fostering a collaborative approach to advancing rural development. This initiative reflects the Department of Agriculture, IIAST's commitment to promoting sustainable and resource-efficient farming practices. It also highlights the department's dedication to empowering farmers through knowledge and technology dissemination.

### Glimpses of the Goshti



