



Brief Report of Guest Lecture organized by Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow

The Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow, organized a guest lecture inviting Prof. (Dr.) Ram Kathin Singh, Executive Director, Nand Educational Foundation for Rural Development (NEFORD), Lucknow, and Visiting Professor, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. Prof. (Dr.) Ram Kathin Singh, an eminent scientist and academician, delivered an insightful lecture sharing his wide-ranging experiences in biometrical genetics, crop breeding, and participatory systems research. He drew upon his illustrious career spanning more than five decades, having served as Director of Research and Dean, College of Agriculture at N.D. University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad, and as IRRI Representative and Liaison Scientist in India. Prof. Singh also discussed his tenure as Senior Fellow, ICRAF South Asia, and highlighted the need for integrating scientific innovation, farmer participation, and sustainable techniques to bridge the gap between research and rural development. The event was held on 6th October 2025 at 2:00 P.M. in the smart classroom, IIAST Building.

During his talk, Prof. Singh emphasized the importance of biometrical approaches in crop improvement, enhancing genetic diversity, and strengthening smallholder farmers' resilience through knowledge-sharing and farmer-scientist collaborations. He also reflected on his experiences with international research institutions such as the University of Birmingham (UK), University of Hohenheim (Germany), and Rostock University (Germany), underscoring the value of cross-border scientific partnerships in advancing sustainable agriculture.

Beyond science, Prof. Singh inspired participants by reflecting on his multifaceted contributions to literature and agrarian communities. Recipient of numerous awards, including the Millennium Award for Promotion of Science (2000), Best Citizen of India (1998), Mahindra Samriddhi Krishi Sahyog Samman (2012), and Sahitya Bhushan Samman (2014), he encouraged students to pursue excellence with social commitment and holistic understanding.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, where students engaged Prof. Singh on contemporary challenges in Indian agriculture, the role of participatory research, and youth involvement in rural innovation. Around 60 students and faculty

members attended the program. His insightful responses broadened their perspective on sustainable agri-scientific development.

The program 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 event was coordinated by Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture, while the event anchoring was skillfully handled by Dr. Pallavi Srivastava. This guest lecture served as a valuable academic initiative by the Department of Agriculture, significantly contributing to the knowledge and practical understanding of students and faculty members.

Glimpse



