



Brief Report on
Departmental Deeksharambh/Orientation and Induction-cum-Foundation
Course Program-2025

Departmental Deeksharambh/Orientation Program

The Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow, organized a two-day orientation program (01/08/2025-02/08/2025) for the academic session 2025–26 to welcome and acquaint new students with departmental structure, faculty, and campus facilities.

Day 1: 01/08/2025

Venue: Seminar Hall, IIAST building

Welcome Address by Head, Prof. Saba Siddiqui

The program began with a welcome address by Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head of the Department, by greeting the newly admitted students and extending best wishes for their academic journey. She highlighted the department's vision, academic excellence, research initiatives, and the importance of discipline and active participation in both curricular and extracurricular activities. She also outlined the department's role in shaping students' careers in agriculture.

Introduction of Faculty Members

Following the welcome address, the new students were introduced to all the faculty members. Each faculty member provided a brief overview of their academic background, areas of expertise, and the courses they would be teaching. This session aimed to familiarize students with the academic resources available to them and to establish a connection between the students and the faculty.

Address by PG Coordinator

Post Graduate (PG) Coordinator, Dr. Malik Mobeen spoke about the PG academic framework, research opportunities, thesis work, and specialization options. He highlighted the significance of advanced learning, critical thinking, and publication ethics for postgraduate students. His address likely motivated PG students to actively engage in research projects, seminars, and conferences.

Address by Admission Coordinator

The Admission Coordinator, Dr. Nadeem Khan elaborated on admission procedures, documentation, and registration formalities, ensuring students understood university policies, deadlines, and eligibility criteria for various academic benefits. His address helped students navigate administrative processes smoothly.

Address by Departmental Website Coordinator

Departmental website Coordinator, Dr. Faria Fatima discussed the department's digital resources, online notices, academic calendar updates, and e-learning portals. She likely demonstrated how students can access academic materials, event announcements, and departmental achievements through the website, fostering better connectivity between faculty and students.



Vote of thanks

A freshers' introduction session allowed new students to interact and share backgrounds. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Faria Fatima. This program was successfully anchored by Dr. Srishti Thakur, Assistant Professor, IIAST.

Day 2: 02/08/2025

The second day of the orientation programme for new undergraduate students was designed to provide a deeper understanding of the institute's resources, policies, and community. The agenda was packed with informative sessions, motivational talks, and visits to various facilities.

Campus Visit

It began with a main campus visit, covering key facilities such as the Central Library, Sports Ground, CIED Cell, Alumni Office, Workshop, and High Note Music Society. The students were given a comprehensive tour of the campus, including academic buildings, laboratories, and recreational facilities. The tour aimed to familiarize them with the layout of the institute and the various resources available. During the library visit, students were introduced to the extensive collection of books, journals, and digital resources. The library staff explained the borrowing process, online databases, and the various study spaces available for student use. The visit to the NSSC (National Service Scheme Cell) provided an overview of the community service initiatives and volunteering opportunities available to students. The NSSC coordinators encouraged students to get involved in social service projects and make a positive impact on the community. The final part of the day was a visit to the hostels, where students were shown the accommodation facilities, dining halls, and common areas. The hostel wardens discussed the rules and regulations, safety measures, and the support services available to resident students.

Address by UG Coordinator

The Undergraduate (UG) coordinator, Dr. Salman Ahmad addressed the students regarding UG program structure, course curriculum, and semester progression. His talk likely covered credit distribution, evaluation systems, attendance requirements, and opportunities for internships and skill-building activities at the undergraduate level. He emphasized the importance of developing both technical knowledge and practical agricultural skills.

Address by Departmental Placement Coordinator

Departmental Placement Coordinator, Dr. Sunil Kumar addressed career opportunities, placement procedures, and industry linkages. He likely discussed the importance of skill development, internships, and soft skills in enhancing employability. He also highlighted past placement records and upcoming recruitment drives.

Address by Assistant Proctor

Dr. Usman Sayeed spoke about disciplinary rules, campus conduct, and student welfare measures. As Assistant Proctor, he plays a vital role in maintaining order, addressing grievances, and ensuring a safe learning environment. His session likely stressed the importance of mutual respect, punctuality, and adherence to university policies.

Address by Centre for Incubation & Entrepreneurship Development Coordinator



Representing the Centre for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Development (CIED), Dr. Suhail Ahmad encouraged students to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture. He may have outlined incubation facilities, start-up funding, and mentorship programs available to students with innovative project ideas.

The day featured a cultural event to engage students in creative activities. The day concluded with a visit to the Agricultural Department. This visit was organized to provide students with an understanding of the department's role, research activities, and contributions to the field of agriculture.

The orientation program provided an informative and engaging platform for students to familiarize themselves with academic processes, support systems, and co-curricular opportunities, fostering a sense of belonging and readiness for the academic journey ahead.

As per the guidelines of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Deeksharambh Programme (Induction-cum-Foundation Course) was conducted from 8th to 13th September 2025 at the Seminar Hall, Department of Agriculture

Day 3: 8th September 2025

The third day of the *Deeksharambh Programme* hosted by Dr. Srishti Thakur, who extended a warm welcome to the students and faculty members. Dr. Srishti Thakur highlighted the vision and objectives of the Deeksharambh initiative, emphasizing its role in shaping the academic, cultural, and ethical outlook of the students. She encouraged the participants to utilize this orientation programme as a platform to familiarize themselves with the institutional environment, interact with peers and faculty, and develop a holistic perspective on their future academic journey.

The keynote lecture was delivered by **Prof. N.C. Gautam**, Former Vice Chancellor of VBS Purvanchal University, Jaunpur. In his address, Prof. Gautam drew upon his vast academic and administrative experience to underline the importance of agriculture and technology in the overall development of society. He eloquently explained how agricultural sciences are not only vital for food security but also serve as the backbone of economic stability in a country like India. His inspiring words left a deep impression on the young minds, instilling in them a sense of pride and responsibility towards their chosen fields of study.

Following the inaugural lecture, the students embarked on an educational visit to the two ICAR research institutions, the **ICAR–Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR), Lucknow** and the **ICAR–Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Lucknow**. At IISR, students were introduced to ongoing research in sugarcane improvement, crop management practices, and innovations in sugarcane-based value chains. The exposure provided them with a practical understanding of how laboratory research translates into field-level impact. At CSSRI, the focus was on soil salinity management, reclamation technologies, and sustainable practices for enhancing productivity in saline and sodic soils. The faculty coordinators **Dr. Nitish Kumar, Dr. Ayush Bhushan, Dr. Pallavi Srivastava, and Mr. Mued** accompanied and guided the students ensuring that the visit was well-structured, interactive, and beneficial for all participants. Such field exposure broadened their outlook and deepened their awareness of real-world agricultural challenges.

The day concluded on a highly enthusiastic note, with students expressing keen interest and curiosity about the diverse domains of agricultural sciences. The blend of an inspiring lecture and hands-on exposure to research institutions created a motivating start to the week-long programme. This day effectively laid the foundation for the students' engagement in the sessions that followed, while



simultaneously fostering a sense of belonging to the larger academic and research community of agriculture.

Day 4: 9th September 2025

The fourth day of the *Deeksharambh Programme* was hosted by Dr. Pallavi Srivastava and carried forward the spirit of enthusiasm generated on the first day. The session commenced with a scholarly lecture by **Dr. Masood Ali**, Former Director of ICAR–Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur. In his lecture, Dr. Ali emphasized the significance of pulses in the Indian agricultural system, particularly in terms of nutritional security, soil health, and crop diversification. He highlighted the research advancements in pulses production, challenges in yield enhancement, and the role of young agricultural graduates in developing sustainable solutions. His talk not only expanded the students' technical understanding but also motivated them to engage in innovative thinking for addressing global food challenges.

Following the lecture, the day's focus shifted towards student-centric activities aimed at fostering creativity and interaction. A skit performance, coordinated by Dr. Srishti Thakur, was presented jointly by the B.Sc. Agriculture First Year and Second Year students on the theme "*Say No to Cheating.*" The performance creatively portrayed the negative impacts of dishonesty in academic and personal life, while simultaneously reinforcing values of integrity, responsibility, and ethical conduct. The activity proved to be highly impactful as it engaged the audience emotionally and conveyed a strong moral message. The outcome of the skit was that students developed greater awareness about academic honesty and realized the importance of upholding ethical values in their educational journey.

This was followed by a Quiz competition, coordinated by Dr. Mustafa Hussain. The quiz was designed around two main areas: general knowledge and basic agriculture-related questions. It offered an excellent opportunity for students to test their awareness of current affairs as well as their foundational understanding of agriculture. The quiz created a lively and competitive atmosphere, with participants showing great enthusiasm. The outcome of the quiz was that students were able to identify their strengths and areas for improvement in terms of knowledge. It also encouraged a spirit of healthy competition and motivated them to stay updated with both academic and general awareness.

To strengthen peer bonding further, ice-breaking activities were also conducted, where students interacted freely with their batchmates and seniors. These activities not only reduced initial hesitation but also encouraged collaboration, mutual support, and friendships among the students. The day concluded on a positive note, with students feeling motivated, engaged, and connected to both the institution and their peers.

The final session of the day was an alumni interaction with **Ms. Sonali Rai**, currently working as a Research Assistant at the ICAR–Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), Varanasi. Ms. Sonali Rai completed her B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (2019–2023) from the Department of Agriculture, IIAST. In her address, she shared her academic journey, research experiences, and professional insights with the freshers. Her interaction was highly motivating, as she not only provided valuable guidance on academic and career planning but also served as a role model, demonstrating how dedication and perseverance at Integral University can pave the way for successful opportunities in agricultural research and higher education.

Day 5: 10th September 2025

The fifth day of the programme, hosted by Dr. Srishti Thakur, brought a diverse blend of technical lectures and creative activities. The day began with a guest lecture by **Mr. Saiyed Fiyaz Imam**, DSR Portfolio and Agronomy Lead, Rice Platform, Asia, Bayer Crop Science Ltd., Thane, Maharashtra. In



his lecture, Mr. Saiyed Fiyaz Imam elaborated on the wide range of opportunities available in the industry sector, particularly highlighting the agribusiness models that are emerging with the modernization of agriculture. He explained how the agriculture sector in India is rapidly evolving, driven by technological innovations, policy support, and growing market demand. Special emphasis was given to the agri-input sector, where fertilizers, seeds, crop protection products, and precision technologies are creating new avenues for professionals. By sharing practical insights from his corporate experience, he encouraged students to view agriculture not only as a traditional field but also as a dynamic sector full of entrepreneurial and industrial possibilities. The session broadened students' understanding of the changing landscape of Indian agriculture and exposed them to potential career avenues in the industry and agribusiness sector. It also motivated them to think innovatively and prepare themselves for emerging opportunities in the agri-input and allied industries.

Following this, **Dr. Sufia Rahman**, from Integral University, delivered an engaging session that emphasized the vital role of communication skills, listening skills, and reading skills in academic and professional success. She explained how effective communication is not only about speaking fluently but also about presenting ideas clearly, confidently, and respectfully. Stressing the importance of attentive listening, she highlighted that it fosters better understanding, empathy, and collaboration in both classroom and workplace settings. Additionally, she encouraged students to develop consistent reading habits, as reading broadens knowledge, sharpens critical thinking, and enhances vocabulary. Her session reminded students that these soft skills are as important as technical knowledge in shaping a successful career. The session made students realize the necessity of strengthening their communication abilities alongside academic learning. It encouraged them to actively practice listening and reading skills to become more confident, articulate, and well-rounded professionals.

The next activity was the Talent Hunt which was organized with the objective of identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the students as well as exploring their hidden talents. The event featured enthusiastic participation from students of B.Sc. Agriculture First Year and Second Year with great enthusiasm in singing, shayari, and stand-up competitions. The lively performances created a platform for students to express themselves beyond academics, showcasing creativity, confidence, and originality. The activity helped in recognizing the diverse abilities of students while boosting their self-confidence. It also provided faculty with insights into the talents and interests of the participants, which can be further nurtured during their academic journey.

Story Writing Competition was organized under the coordination of Dr. Mustafa Hussain, with participation from all B.Sc. and B.Tech. First Year students. This activity encouraged students to channel their creativity into written expression, resulting in a wide range of imaginative stories. The competition not only highlighted their literary potential but also provided them with an opportunity to share their ideas in a meaningful and engaging manner.

The Story Writing Competition was organized under the coordination of Dr. Mustafa Hussain, with enthusiastic participation from all B.Sc. and B.Tech. First Year students. The theme of the competition was "*The Movie That Motivated You*," which encouraged students to reflect on films that had left a lasting impression on their lives and translate that inspiration into creative writing. Participants produced a variety of imaginative and insightful stories that connected cinematic experiences with personal growth and motivation. The First Prize was given **Ankita Srivastava**, B.Sc. Agriculture, First Year for her engaging and thoughtful storytelling that beautifully linked a movie's message with real-life challenges. The competition successfully highlighted the literary creativity and reflective thinking of the students.

The next activity of the day was an expert lecture which was delivered by **Dr. Gulshan Wadhwa**, Advisor & Scientist, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India. Dr. Wadhwa spoke about the cutting-edge developments in biotechnology and its applications in



agriculture, healthcare, and industry. His session inspired students to appreciate the broader relevance of their studies and opened their minds to interdisciplinary opportunities.

Day 6: 11th September 2025

The sixth day, hosted by **Dr. Pallavi Srivastava**, emphasized practical learning, extracurricular engagement, and environmental responsibility. The day began with a Plantation Drive coordinated by **Dr. Munny Chinyo** where students actively participated in planting saplings across the campus. The activity was conducted at Unit 8, where saplings of important tree species such as Kachnar (*Bauhinia variegata*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Mahua (*Madhuca longifolia*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Guava (*Psidium guajava*), and Harsinghar (*Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*) were planted. The initiative was aimed at sensitizing students towards the significance of biodiversity conservation, enhancing green cover, and improving ecological sustainability. The drive also provided students with experiential learning beyond the classroom, instilling in them a sense of collective responsibility to nurture the planted saplings and contribute to environmental stewardship.

The students then participated in a lively Treasure Hunt, which promoted teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership skills in an engaging format. The activity created excitement and built stronger bonds among participants. A socially relevant activity, Parthenium Eradication, was also organized, where students engaged in controlling this harmful weed, thereby learning the significance of ecological balance and community-driven agricultural practices. Recognizing its harmful impact, the activity aimed to create awareness among students about the ecological challenges caused by such invasive species and to engage them in practical efforts to address the problem. The activity was conducted under the guidance of faculty coordinator **Dr. Nitish Kumar**, students participated in identifying and removing the weed.

An Extempore Competition followed, giving students an opportunity to enhance their communication skills, think critically, and articulate their ideas with confidence. The day concluded with an impactful lecture by **Dr. Narendra Pratap Singh**, Former Director of IIPR. He spoke about the advancements in pulses research and the scope of agricultural sciences in meeting national and global food demands. His lecture encouraged students to view agriculture not only as a profession but also as a service to society and humanity at large. Day four thus offered a balanced mix of intellectual engagement, skill development, and social awareness.

Day 7: 12th September 2025

The seventh day of the *Deeksharambh Programme* was dedicated entirely to field-based experiential learning through an educational visit to the ICAR–National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow. The visit was meticulously coordinated by Dr. Nitish Kumar, Dr. Ayush Bhushan, Dr. Ruqaiya Bano and Dr. Pallavi Srivastava, who ensured smooth organization and guided the students throughout the exposure trip.

At NBFGR, students were introduced to ongoing research in the conservation and utilization of fish genetic resources, modern techniques in aquaculture, and the role of biotechnology in maintaining aquatic biodiversity. They interacted with scientists and researchers who explained the challenges and opportunities in the field of fisheries, particularly in the context of climate change, sustainability, and food security.

The sessions gave students a comprehensive understanding of the importance of conserving aquatic biodiversity for ecological balance and human livelihood. They also gained insights into career opportunities in fisheries and allied sectors, broadening their outlook beyond traditional agricultural practices. The visit proved to be a highly enriching experience, as it connected classroom concepts with



real-world scientific research, thereby enhancing curiosity, awareness, and aspirations among the students.

Day 8: 13th Spentember 2025

The final day of the *Deeksharambh Programme* was dedicated to promoting mental well-being, mindfulness, and physical fitness which is the essential components of holistic education. The day began with a Meditative and Wellness Session conducted by **Dr. Kalpana Bisht**, which focused on helping students cultivate inner calmness, concentration, and emotional balance. Through guided breathing exercises and simple meditation techniques, students learned how to manage stress, maintain focus, and develop a positive outlook toward academic and personal challenges. Dr. Kalpana Bisht emphasized that a healthy mind is the foundation of a productive life, and that mindfulness practices can significantly enhance learning, creativity, and interpersonal relationships. The session encouraged students to incorporate mindfulness and meditation into their daily routines. It helped them understand the importance of mental health, stress management, and emotional stability in achieving both academic excellence and personal growth.

Following the wellness session, there was energetic series of sports activities, coordinated by **Dr. Usman Syaheed**. The events included volleyball, tug of war and kabaddi, all of which were organized to promote teamwork, coordination, and a spirit of healthy competition among students. The volleyball match saw enthusiastic participation from both B.Sc. Agriculture and B.Tech. Agricultural Engineering students, who displayed excellent teamwork, strategy, and sportsmanship. The tug of war became one of the most exciting highlights of the day, featuring spirited contests not only between student teams but also a friendly yet competitive match between faculty and students, which created a memorable bond between teachers and the students.

The kabaddi match added further excitement, showcasing the strength, agility, and coordination of the participants. Students participated passionately for their teams with great enthusiasm and encouragement. These sports activities provided a perfect balance of fun, fitness, and interaction after a week of academic and co-curricular sessions. The sports events strengthened teamwork, discipline, and mutual respect among students while fostering a healthy and cooperative relationship between students and faculty. They also helped participants recognize the importance of physical fitness, leadership, and team spirit as essential elements of overall personality development.

The **Deeksharambh Programme 2025** was successfully conducted under the guidance of **Prof. Saba Siddiqui**, Head of the Department of Agriculture, and **Prof. Mohammad Haris Siddiqui**, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology, whose continuous support and encouragement ensured the smooth and successful organization of the programme. The overall coordination of the programme was efficiently managed by **Dr. Ruqaiya Bano**, who ensured that each session was conducted seamlessly, aligning with the objectives of the Deeksharambh initiative.









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