

Brief Report On

"World Bee day"

Bees are beneficial because of their role in pollination. They provide us a number of products like honey, bees wax, royal jelly, bee venom, propolis and pollen. Recognizing the importance of honeybee, the United Nations General Assembly designated 20th May as “**World Bee Day**”. It was first inaugurated on 20th May 2018 and is celebrated every year since then. Integral Institute of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (IIAST) celebrated the same to make the students aware of the importance of honeybees. An educational and interactive motivational ‘*Guest Lecture*’ was organized on 20th May, 2022 in the Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow . The students acknowledged the role of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem. They became aware of the importance of pollinators in our environment, the threats faced and the important role of pollinators in sustainability of the ecosystem as well .

The Guest speaker was Dr. HS Singh, Principal Scientist and Head, Division of Entomology, ICAR-Central Institute of Sub-Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow. He is an eminent Scientist and has vast experience and knowledge in the area of Integrated Pest Management, Toxicology of Insecticides and their effect on Honeybees. He has 22 years of vast experience of working with ICAR institutes. The event began with a brief introduction of the guest speaker, Dr. H S Singh by Dr. Salman Ahmad. The guest speaker was heartily welcomed by Dr Saba Siddiqui, Head of the Department.

The topic of presentation was “Bees- The nature Nurturing Creatures”. Dr. H S Singh discussed about Honey bees, their ecology, caste system in bees, Bee keeping apparatus and the benefits they bring to the environment. He also elaborated on the pollination caused by honey bees, their role in improving crop yield and the importance of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem. Dr. Singh emphasized that beekeeping is a widespread and global activity, with millions of beekeepers depending on bees for their livelihoods and well-being. Together with wild pollinators, bees play a major role in maintaining biodiversity, ensuring the survival and reproduction of many plants, supporting forest regeneration, promoting sustainability and adaptation to climate change, improving the quantity and quality of agricultural productions. He focussed on the species found in India as our country is the center of rich diversity for honey-bees. Out of 9 *Apis* spp, 6 are indigenous to India, while *A. mellifera* is introduced from USA. Commercial beekeeping enterprise can be more profitable if planning and operations are oriented for diversifying the bee products.

The students participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. The students gain an insight that they as individual can make a difference to support, restore and enhance the role of pollinators. The program was well organized by Faculty coordinators, Dr. Salman Ahmad and Dr. Sabuj Ganguly.

