

***Parthenium* awareness Rally organised by Department of Agriculture under SDG 3 and SDG 12**

Parthenium is one of the obnoxious weeds. It is poisonous, pernicious and aggressive weed which poses threat to both human beings and Livestock. *Parthenium* is considered as noxious and pasture weed which causes severe allergic dermatitis and respiratory problems. This herbicide tolerant noxious weed causes severe crop losses too and is becoming a major threat to Agriculture. In view of the seriousness and magnitude of the threat posed by *parthenium*, Department of agriculture, IIAST conducted a parthenium awareness rally as 06.09.2022 in order to make farmers aware of menace of parthenium/ Gajar Ghas and to make them understand how this weed is responsible for causing health issues as well as loss of productivity and biodiversity. The rally moved from Integral University's campus to Behta Village. The Students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (IInd year and IIIrd year) took an oath, promising to keep raising awareness about the negative impacts of weeds and to work for its elimination.

The program was observed under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology and Dr. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. The faculty coordinators Dr. Sunil Kumar and Dr. Mustfa Hussain accompanied the students and informed the farmers that this weed can only be eradicated by mobilizing the society for group action. They appraised them regarding different parthenium control practices.

The representatives of Gram panchayat also joined this Programme along with the other residents of the village. IIAST has been organizing parthenium awareness rally in past years also. The awareness Programme was a great success by the efforts of faculty members and students.

This rally was an effort to promote Sustainable Development Goals SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

Glimpses of the Event

