

Brief Report on
Educational Visit of Students of B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture to Kisan
Mela, Banda University of Agriculture & Technology, Banda
On
4th November 2022

One day educational visit to Kisan Mela at Banda University of Agriculture & Technology, Banda was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST) on 4th November 2022 for the students of B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture IIIrd Year.

The objectives of an educational visit to Kisan Mela were –

- To give an insight to students regarding latest innovative ideas, new technologies and best practices available in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.
- To upgrade the knowledge of students regarding new and improved varieties of crops, sensor-based technology and knowledge about soil and water testing.
- To provide a platform to students for interacting with various agrochemical, seed companies and other agriculture-based input dealers.
- To provide them with a single platform for interaction with farmers from different regions of the country as well as various scientists and agricultural experts.

The Educational Visit 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 Mr Nadeem Khan, Dr. Usman Sayeed, Dr. Sunil Kumar and Ms. Akanksha Singh along with the supporting staff Syed Faisal Kirmani and Suraj Awasthi accompanied the students of B.Sc (Hons.)Agriculture III Year. The students had a very enriched experience as they were exposed to new and improved varieties of crops, fruits, vegetables, flowers and also different plant pathogens and harmful insects which greatly impairs the productivity of various crops. They were also introduced to the agricultural machineries for spraying of chemicals or pesticides in order to control plant diseases, insects, weeds and other pests which enhanced their knowledge regarding modern machineries. Students got an insight about the concept of natural farming, Smart Farming and Integrated Farming System and new technologies and practices for encouraging such type of farming. Natural Farming is a chemical free, traditional farming method and considered as an agro-ecology based diversified farming system which integrates crops, trees and livestock with functional biodiversity. It is the best farming method for environmental protection and human health and improves the quality of the land and the income of the farmers. A beautiful model of watershed management in Bundelkhand region and Integrated Extension System in Bundelkhand gained the attraction of students.

Students were exposed to various types of biofertilizers, vermicompost and organic manures which can be used along with chemical fertilizers and thus, can reduce greater dependency on chemical fertilizers. At the same time, organic manures play an important role in improving soil quality and ultimately enhancing crop productivity. Students also learned the methods of soil and water testing and how soil testing kits developed by agri- innovators can help in determining on the spot available nutrients status in the soil. Students were also acquainted with the technique of soil-less cultivation, protected cultivation of fruits and vegetables, organic farming, drip irrigation and fertigation. Students interacted with new agri start-ups and fertilizer and seed companies which further enhanced their knowledge about this field. At last, students were given a complete tour of the university and the experimental farms which made them more aware of the research work going on currently in various fields of agriculture.

Visit to the Krishi Mela widened the knowledge of our students through demonstration of new technologies and practices, usage of organic manures, biofertilizers and knowledge about the machines and equipment required for carrying out various agricultural works and strengthening the future of the Indian agriculture sector. Students also witnessed the recent advancement of smart agriculture for improving crop productivity.

We would like to thank the University administration and Management for making this trip possible.

