

Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST) Integral University, Lucknow

Brief report on Kisan Goshthi organized by Department of Agriculture IIAST in Palka Village on Millet Cultivation- A Boon For Farmers

In view of the International Year of Millets 2023 having theme of "Harnessing the untapped potential of millets for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture" a one day Kisan Goshthi was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST) on 27 May 2023 to sensitize the natives of the Village Palka and also contributes to the SDG 2 and SDG3 of promoting zero hunger along with good health and well-being Important information about types of millets, its benefits for nutritional and economic security, government schemes to increase millet production in India and other important aspects related to millet cultivation were successfully imparted to farmers by the experts of IIAST. The main objective of the Kisan Goshthi was to provide awareness among the farmers and associate them with different schemes of the Agriculture department and new technologies launched for the welfare of the farming community.

The Programme was observed 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 faculty coordinators Dr. Khalid Habib, Dr Akanksha Singh and Dr. Abhineet along with supporting staff Syed Faisal Kirmani and Suraj Awasthi accompanied students of B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture, to Palka Village where the Goshthi was organized. 50 farmers of village Palka and other nearby villages attended the Goshthi. Dr. Khalid Habib provided much important information to the farmers about promoting millet production. He explained about the improved yield of bajra crop in weak monsoon and the nutritional importance of bajra crop in human diet. Dr. Abhineet successfully disseminated information about varieties of Pearl Millet and Sorghum which can be grown in U.P., suitable climate requirement for cultivating millets, cultural practices for millet production and dose and time for application of manures fertilizers and pesticides for successful cultivation of millets. Dr Akanksha Singh outlined the various interventions executed by the government for successful cultivation of millet crop. She informed farmers about the ICDP-CC Scheme, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna and Rainfed Area Development Program and also explained the processing possibilities and economic benefits of millets in an elaborate manner. Farmers were motivated to grow millet as it is a highly beneficial crop. The interaction and communication approach of experts of Kisan Goshthi were impressive and there was good interaction with experts regarding solutions of farmers' queries. The Goshthi was concluded after taking the Feedback of farmers for assessing their level of satisfaction, which revealed that the majority of farmers attending the Kisan Goshthi were highly satisfied with the way Goshthi was organized and the quality of contents which were delivered. Farmers took keen interest in the initiative of the department and appreciated the role of IIAST faculties for the betterment of the farming community.

Glimpses of Kisan Goshthi

