

Brief report on Kisan Goshti organized by Department of Agriculture, IIAST on
“Sustainable agriculture: Cultivating a greener future”

Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST) organized a Kisan Goshti on 2nd of June 2023 to promote a sense of understanding amongst the farmers of the Bhakamau Village on “**Sustainable Agriculture: Cultivating a Greener Future**”. Important information regarding self-help groups and government schemes for increasing Agricultural production was shared with farmers.

The Goshti 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 members Dr. Faria Fatima (Associate Professor), Dr. Pankaj Kumar Gupta (Assistant Professor) and Dr. Srishti Thakur (Assistant Professor) accompanied students of B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture to Bhakamau Village. The farmers of village Bhakamau and other nearby villages attended the Goshti. Dr. Faria Fatima, discussed the planting materials that are provided from different Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and are important for the conservation of plant genetic diversity and serve as repositories for various types of seeds, including those of endangered or rare plant species. They typically store seeds under controlled conditions to maintain their viability over long periods of time. Better planting material contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems which correlates directly to SDG 15 i.e. life on land. Dr. Pankaj Gupta, discussed at length about Improved livestock genetics through selective breeding or acquiring superior breeds for higher productivity and profitability, to optimize animal nutrition by providing balanced and nutritious feed to enhance growth and health, resulting in improved production outcomes and this is parallel to Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12). He also encouraged Implementation of sustainable animal management practices, including proper housing, sanitation and healthcare to ensure optimal productivity. Dr. Srishti Thakur, disseminated information about the various central and state government schemes for financial assistance such as National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) where e-NAM can help in reducing poverty by providing farmers with a transparent and competitive market to sell their produce, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, which supports SDG 8, KCC sustains economic growth by providing farmers with the necessary credit to invest in their agricultural activities, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) etc. in addition to this the students also updated the farmers regarding types of Irrigation techniques, Mushroom cultivation, Agri-entrepreneurship etc. The farmers in Bhakamau were encouraged to register for numerous government-sponsored programs aimed at boosting agricultural productivity and sustainable development in Agriculture. Students engaged Farmers and attend their respective queries. The Goshti was purposeful, and the farmers' feedback was collected to gauge their level of satisfaction. Farmers came together during the goshthi to discuss common challenges with academicians and find solutions. The goshthi provided an opportunity for farmers as well as students and academicians to network and collaborate with each other, creating partnerships and sharing knowledge resources.

Glimpses of Kisan goshthi:

