

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

#### Report

on

## Plantation Drive by Department of Agriculture, IIAST on the occasion of "Van Mahotsav"

Van Mahotsav reiterates the importance of trees and forests in sustaining life on Earth. It also promotes a collective commitment to protecting the environment and maintaining a harmonious relationship with nature. These initiatives aim to enhance green spaces, improve air quality, and promote a sustainable and eco-friendly environment. In addition to this urban plantation is also a vital part to van mahotsav which typically involves planting trees, shrubs, and flowering plants in urban areas including public parks, road dividers, school and college campuses and other open spaces. In order to intensify this approach and develop a better perspective amongst students about this event, a plantation drive was initiated by the Department of Agriculture, IIAST under the theme "Ped lagao Ped bachao". Dr. Ayush Bhushan and Dr. Usman along with the students of B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture, M.Sc. (Agriculture) and Research scholars meticulously organised the event on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023. The event aimed to enhance the green cover of the farm unit and promote the cultivation of diverse plant species known for their environmental and ecological significance.

The participants planted a variety of plant species known for their beauty, ecological benefits, and medicinal properties which has been a part of urban forest. Urban forests play a crucial role in creating healthier and more sustainable urban environments. They are often managed and maintained by local authorities or community organizations to ensure their continued benefits to residents and the environment. So in order to suffix urban foresting selected plant species were planted under this plantation drive. These plants are plethora of ornamental, medicinal, nutritional, and ecological benefits, making them valuable additions to landscapes, gardens, and urban environments. Each of these species was strategically chosen to contribute to the biodiversity of the farm while also serving as valuable resources for research, education, and environmental conservation.

Gulmohar (Delonix regia) Arjun (Terminalia arjuna) Champa (Michelia champaca) Drumstick (Moringa oleifera) Amaltas (Cassia fistula) Bamboo (Bambusoideae spp.) Kachnar (Bauhinia variegata) Palas (Butea monosperma) Behera (Terminalia bellirica)

The participants worked in groups to ensure efficient and systematic plantation. They followed proper planting techniques such as digging adequate holes, ensuring proper spacing between plants and providing necessary organic fertilizers for the young saplings. The active participation of students and faculty members reflected their commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture. The planted saplings are expected to grow and thrive, contributing to the overall ecological health and academic pursuits of the institution. The event



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serves as a significant step towards creating a greener and more ecologically balanced campus environment. The drive was observed under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST.

#### Glimpses of the plantation drive





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