



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

Report on Training Program on Quality Improvement in Mint

Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow
In Collaboration with
Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce and Industries, GoI) Regional Office, Barabanki

Mint is a highly commercial oriented crop and is mostly sold as a cash crop. The type of mint is distinct from "pudina," which is frequently used as a culinary herb. This is one of the most important essential oil plants which is frequently used in cosmetic, medicinal, and other products. One of the primary growing places for the crop is the region of Lucknow, where about 80,000 hectares of land have been allocated to the cultivation of menthol mint which gives farmers a financial advantage as a result. Emphasizing upon the importance of Mint in that area, a one day **“Quality Improvement Training Programme on Mint”** was organized by Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST), Integral University, Lucknow in collaboration with Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce and Industries, GoI) Regional Office, Barabanki on 13 February, 2024 at village-Bhagatpurwa.

The program with a comprehensive briefing on "Organic Farming for Sustainable Production" Dr. Ambreesh Singh Yadav, Associate Professor, Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University. Dr. Yadav elucidated to the farmers the detrimental impact of indiscriminate fertilizer usage and faulty agronomic practices, leading to a depletion of organic carbon content in soils, ultimately hampering soil health. He urged the farmers to embrace the utilization of on-farm and off-farm waste, compost, green manuring, vermicompost, and other organic amendments to enrich the soil's organic carbon content. Dr. Yadav meticulously described the scientific procedures for the preparation of various organic manures and the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies for effective pest management.

Mr. Sandeep Singh Yadav, Assistant Director, Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Government of India) Regional Office, Barabanki, described the importance of maintaining mint quality for extraction purposes and the implementation of development schemes facilitated by the Spices Board, India. He informed the gathering that India cultivates 52 varieties of mint and is the leading exporter of mint oil globally, with Uttar Pradesh accounting for 85 percent of the country's total acreage. Mr. Yadav enlightened the farmers about the various schemes offered by the Spices Board of India pertaining to mint cultivation, processing, and export quality standards. These include the Mint Distillation Unit, Quality Gap Bridge Group (QGBG), and exposure visits under the Quality Induction and Transfer of Technology Programme (QITP) for individual farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

Dr. Nitish Kumar Pandey, Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University briefed on *“Importance of natural farming”*. He mentioned the importance of cow in farming practices for preparing various eco-friendly Agricultural inputs like **Bijamrit, Jeevamrit, Ghanamrit,**



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Dashparni etc. from cow dung, urine and other natural products. The integration of livestock into the farming system helps to restore the ecosystem.

The training programme was attended by 60 farmers and Undergraduate and Postgraduate students of Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, Lucknow. The training programme ended with concluded notes by Dr. Sunil Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, where he expressed gratitude to the participants and all the speakers for sharing their experiences and important information about mint quality with his informative lecture. He also thanked Prof. (Dr.) Mohd. Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University for providing the opportunity and other logistics to support such an informative programme.

Glimpse of the Training Programme



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