



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

Report on micro workshop on “**Relook at Agriculture related Policies and Practices**” under the theme “**Thriving and Sustainable Economy**” of **Viksit Bharat@2047** conducted by IIAST

The Indian Government has launched a visionary program aimed at leveraging the innovative ideas and creative energy of the nation's youth, recognizing their pivotal role in shaping the future vision of "Viksit Bharat@2047." This initiative coincides with the centenary of India's independence, marking a significant milestone in the nation's journey. In alignment with this overarching vision, the Department of Agriculture at the Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IIAST) took a decisive step forward by organizing a micro workshop. This workshop was strategically designed to serve as a platform for young minds within the institute to articulate their ideas and propose solutions. It operated with the overarching goal of cultivating a collaborative and inclusive environment, thereby enabling the aspirations of the younger generation to seamlessly integrate and contribute to India's comprehensive development agenda. Through such administrative endeavours, the institute aimed to channelize the creative potential of its youth towards the collective vision of a developed and sustainable India by 2047. We have adopted AI Based subjects in to our curriculum aiming to equip students with futuristic perspectives on emerging technologies and the evolving global landscape.

The micro workshop on the theme of "ViksitBharat2047: Thriving and Sustainable Economy," was conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IIAST) on April 2, 2024 to bring about rich repository of innovative ideas and creative solutions from the youth, where the students were actively engaged in brainstorming sessions, collaborative exercises, and idea presentation to foster their understanding of key principles and strategies for building a robust and sustainable economic framework which will cater agriculture and allied sectors for India's development. The program began with an awareness and inductive lecture by Dr. Setu Ratnam Assistant professor, IIAST, who elaborated upon the needs and challenges of the forthcoming Agrarian community and involved students in community development by addressing the issues in devising innovative solutions and practical interventions.

This was preceded with Idea Generation competition and Brainstorming Session under the theme "Relook At Agriculture Related Policies and Practices," in which students enthusiastically contributed innovative ideas for shaping the future of agriculture. Students



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presented a diverse range of visionary ideas, each with the potential to revolutionize agricultural practices and address pressing challenges. They presented entrepreneurial approaches aimed at supporting the economy and ensuring sustainable development in India through advancements in agricultural policies and practices. Various students come up with ideas of advanced zero energy cool chambers, block based service centre and integrated plant disease management system powered by GPS technology, zero waste consumable cutlery, hydroponic setup for vegetable production, short time transportation of agricultural produces, market linkage, Aeroponic production of saffron. Amongst these ideas, most praised and first prize awardees was the idea of aeroponic production of saffron put forth by Utkarsh Singh, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture and Uday Pratap Singh, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture second prize was bagged by Sumit Singh B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture for the idea of controlled environment agriculture and third prize was awarded to Dhruv Kumar for the idea of Market Linkages and rural entrepreneurship.

The students showcased a plethora of innovative ideas aimed at revolutionizing agricultural practices and contributing to India's sustainable development. Among the ideas generated, several notable concepts emerged:

1. **Aeroponic Production of Saffron:** Utkarsh Singh and Uday Pratap Singh's proposal to cultivate saffron using aeroponic techniques is intriguing. Saffron is a high-value crop with a delicate growing process, and traditional cultivation methods may not always be suitable or efficient. Aeroponics offers a promising alternative by providing precise control over nutrient delivery and environmental conditions, potentially leading to higher yields and better quality saffron. This approach also conserves water and land resources, addressing sustainability concerns.
2. **Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA):** Sumit Singh's concept of utilizing controlled environment agriculture (CEA) techniques is timely and relevant. With climate change affecting traditional farming practices, CEA offers a solution by allowing farmers to create optimal growing conditions indoors. By controlling factors like temperature, humidity, and light, farmers can mitigate risks associated with unpredictable weather and pests, leading to more consistent crop production and higher profitability. This approach has the potential to revolutionize farming practices and increase food security in India.



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3. Market Linkages and Rural Entrepreneurship: Dhruv Kumar's emphasis on establishing market linkages and promoting rural entrepreneurship is crucial for the economic development of rural areas. Many farmers struggle to access markets directly, leading to dependence on middlemen and lower incomes. By facilitating direct market access and supporting rural entrepreneurs, this initiative aims to empower farmers and rural communities economically. Strengthening market linkages can also improve the overall efficiency of the agricultural value chain, benefiting both producers and consumers.

Overall, these proposals showcase innovative approaches to addressing key challenges in India's agricultural sector, from improving productivity and sustainability to enhancing market access and rural livelihoods. Implementing these ideas could contribute significantly to the transformation and modernization of Indian agriculture, aligning with the overarching vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047." These ideas represent innovative approaches to addressing key challenges in agriculture, including resource efficiency, productivity enhancement, and market access. By harnessing emerging technologies and entrepreneurial strategies, these proposals have the potential to transform the agricultural sector and contribute significantly to India's economic and environmental sustainability. The outcome of the idea generation sessions highlighted the students' commitment to finding sustainable solutions for agricultural development. Their visionary proposals not only hold the potential to transform the agricultural sector but also contribute significantly to India's economic growth and environmental sustainability. Our younger generation is our future and their zeal in participation was remarkable

Dr. R. C. Srivastava's expertise undoubtedly brought immense value to the session with his guest lecture. His experience as the former Vice-Chancellor of Rajendra Prasad Central Agriculture University and his contributions to agricultural policy formulation make him a beacon of knowledge in India's agricultural landscape. During the interaction, Dr. Srivastava's insights provided a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in India's agricultural development journey. His visionary perspectives would have helped the students grasp the complexities involved and offered them a glimpse into the future trajectory of agricultural development in India. His role in evaluating the innovative ideas presented by the students would have been invaluable. By providing constructive feedback and guidance, he likely encouraged the students to think critically and creatively about addressing the pressing



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issues in agriculture. Dr. Srivastava's emphasis on "Viksit Bharat 2047" have emphasised on the importance of long-term planning and sustainable development in shaping India's future. His ability to articulate the overarching vision and align it with the students' ideas have inspired them to contribute meaningfully to India's developmental goals.

Prof. Saba Siddiqui highlighted the significance of youth engagement in shaping the future of agriculture and agricultural development. She praised the innovative ideas presented during the workshop; Prof. Siddiqui expressed gratitude for his insightful lecture and emphasized the importance of collaboration between academia and practitioners. She reiterated the university's commitment to fostering innovation and sustainability in agriculture for the benefit of society and India's developmental goals. A total of around 50 students and faculty members participated enthusiastically and feedback forms were collected for further development of students' business acumen.

Glimpses of the program





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