



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

Report of National Seminar on the occasion of Earth Day on the topic:

"Save Natural Resources to Save Planet Earth"

The Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IIAST) and Association for Natural Resource Conservation and Management (ANRCM), Lucknow, jointly organized a thought-provoking national seminar titled "Save Natural Resources to Save Planet Earth" at Integral University on 22/04/2024. In recognition of Earth Day 2024's theme of "Planet vs. Plastics", a seminar was conducted and aimed to bring together experts to deliberate on sustainable development goals and effective solutions for managing critical natural resources such as agriculture, soils, forests, drylands, etc.

Inaugural session:

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. A.S. Yadav, Associate Professor, IIAST, Integral University. Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST, highlighted the profound significance of Earth Day and the need for collective action to protect our planet. The event was graced by esteemed guests and speakers who shared valuable insights and perspectives on sustainable management of natural resources and related challenges. Here's a summary of their contributions:

Dr. Sanjay Arora, Secretary, ANRCM, provided insightful details about the association and the objectives of the seminar. The inaugural session featured a keynote address by the esteemed Dr. D.K. Sharma, former Director, ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, RRS, Lucknow. Dr. Sharma elaborated on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are crucial for safeguarding the planet's well-being.

Prof. Aqeel Ahmad, the Advisor to the Hon'ble Chancellor, Integral University, shared his valuable perspectives on the event's theme, likely offering insights into the importance of sustainable practices in education and beyond. He encouraged the participants to create a more sustainable planet.

Dr. Ajit Kumar Sahsney: The Chief Guest of the seminar and Director of CSIR-NBRI, Dr. Sahsney provided invaluable insights into strategies and solutions for sustainable management of natural resources, with a focus on addressing issues related to plastics, likely discussing the importance of research and innovation in tackling environmental challenges.



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Dr. Y.P. Singh: emeritus scientist, ICAR, delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of all attendees and organizers to the inaugural session, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and collective efforts in addressing sustainability issues.

Technical session:

Dr. D.K Sharma chaired the technical session, while Prof. Siddiqui served as co-chair. Their roles involved facilitating discussions, ensuring smooth proceedings, and encouraging audience engagement.

Prof. Rana P. Singh delivered the keynote address, exploring sustainable development and resource management from scientific, sociological, and ecological perspectives, likely providing a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities in achieving sustainability goals.

Dr. G. Singh: Former Head of Arid Forest Research Institute, Dr. Singh shared insights on restoring degraded drylands through forestry initiatives, highlighting the importance of ecosystem restoration for sustainable resource management.

The session was followed by insightful presentations by **Dr. Sanjay Arora and Dr. Arjun Singh: scientists at ICAR-CSSRI, RRS, Lucknow.** They delivered lectures on microbial interventions for effective agricultural waste management and the impacts and management of agricultural plastics, respectively, discussing innovative approaches to address agricultural sustainability challenges.

Dr Arjun Singh: Dr. Singh emphasized the pivotal role of young leaders and activists in driving meaningful change in the fight against climate change. Highlighting the urgency of the climate crisis, he emphasized on the need to harness the passion and creativity of youth to implement innovative solutions. Through fostering intergenerational dialogue and collaboration, Dr. Singh advocated for a collective effort to amplify youth voices and support their initiatives for a sustainable future. He called for a comprehensive approach that prioritizes stronger regulations and enforcement mechanisms to ensure accountability and effectiveness. Drawing attention to the role of governance in shaping sustainable practices, Dr. Singh emphasized the importance of transparent decision-making processes and inclusive policy development that considers the needs of present and future generations.

Dr. D.K. Sharma: In his concluding remarks, Dr. Sharma emphasized the critical importance of raising awareness and implementing sustainable solutions to mitigate environmental crises and



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achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, likely inspiring the audience to take action towards sustainability. The seminar provided a valuable platform for sharing cutting-edge research and best practices to address pressing environmental issues such as plastic pollution, land degradation, and unsustainable resource use. Around **285 students**, faculty, scientists joined the program. Attendees joined the event both in-person at Integral University's Central Auditorium and virtually, contributing to a diverse and engaging discourse.

The program was successfully conducted by the faculty coordinators, Dr. Khalid Habib, Associate Professor, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Associate Professor, Dr. P. Smriti Rao, Assistant Professor, and supporting staffs, Mr. Sandeep K. Singh, and Mr. Dheer Pratap Singh, all from the Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, who served as members of the organizing committee for the national seminar. The program was meticulously conducted by Dr. P. Smriti Rao.

Reflecting on the event, it was evident that this Earth Day program united agriculture experts to catalyze positive change and foster a sustainable future for our planet. By addressing crucial issues and exploring innovative solutions, the seminar paved the way for collective action towards environmental conservation and responsible resource management.

Glimpses of the program





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