



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

Report on Guest Lecture On Agricultural Plastic Management 19/04/2022

The Department of Agriculture organized an Expert Lecture on the topic “Agricultural Plastic Management” on 19/04/2022 in Seminar Hall, Agricultural Block, IIAST. The Guest Speaker was Dr. Sanjay Arora, Head, ICAR-CSSRI, Regional Research Station, Lucknow. His research areas include: Nutrient use efficiency, Simulations modelling, organic farming, Integrated Nutrient Management and bioremediation. His consulting capabilities are: Composting Techniques, Soil Health Management, Input quality Control. The Guest Lecture commenced with the Welcome Address of Dr. Saba Siddiqui, Department of Agriculture who welcomed the Guest followed by a short speech on the Holistic approaches to medicinal, aromatic and spice crop management.

The lecture began with an overview of the myriad uses of plastics in modern agriculture, including mulch films, greenhouse covers, bale wraps, soil fumigants, irrigation tubing, and more. While recognizing the benefits these products provide in terms of increasing yields, extending growing seasons, and reducing pesticide/herbicide use, Dr. Arora emphasized the need to critically examine their lifecycle impacts. A major focus was the disposal and environmental persistence of agricultural plastics. Dr. Arora shared disturbing data on the massive quantities entering the soil, waterways, and marine environments each year due to improper management. He discussed the hazards of plastic debris and additives to ecosystems, wildlife, and potentially human health.

The lecture sparked a lively discussion and Q&A session. Students asked about comparing the pros and cons of conventional vs. biodegradable mulch films, challenges in recycling plastic greenhouse covers, and the role of extended producer responsibility policies, among other issues. In closing, Dr. Arora emphasized that while agricultural plastics provide important benefits, we must adopt principles of eco-efficiency and green chemistry to minimize environmental damage across their lifecycle.

Overall, Dr. Arora's lecture was extremely informative and thought-provoking. His ability to break down the complexities of this multi-faceted issue, backed by cutting-edge research findings, made for an engaging and impactful presentation.

Glimpse



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