



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

Report
on
Guest Lecture on Agri-Entrepreneurship in Food Processing
Organized by
Department of Agriculture
September 21, 2022

The Department of Agriculture at the Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IIAST) hosted a guest lecture with the goal of educating attendees about new developments in the area and offering insights into the most recent developments in agriculture. Mr Pankaj Kumar Shah, GFST, Kanpur visit on September 21, 2022, for an insightful guest lecture on "Agri-Entrepreneurship in Food Processing". Dr. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, cordially welcomed the lecturer. Dr. Siddiqui urged everyone to participate in such lectures.

Mr. Shah began his lecture by emphasizing the critical role of agriculture in India's economy and the immense potential that lies in agribusiness, particularly in food processing. He pointed out that despite India being one of the largest producers of agricultural products, the country's food processing sector remains underdeveloped compared to its potential. This, he explained, offers a vast arena for innovation and entrepreneurial ventures.

Delving into the specifics of food processing, Mr. Shah highlighted how value addition to raw agricultural products can significantly enhance their market value. He shared compelling statistics showing the gap between the current processing levels and the potential for growth, underscoring the opportunities for budding entrepreneurs to make impactful contributions. Mr. Shah illustrated his points with real-life case studies of successful agri-entrepreneurs who have revolutionized the industry with their innovative approaches to processing and marketing.

The lecture also covered the various stages of the food processing chain, from harvesting to packaging, and the importance of maintaining quality and safety standards at each stage. Mr. Shah emphasized the necessity for modern technological interventions in food processing to improve efficiency, reduce waste, and ensure product quality. He introduced the audience to contemporary technologies such as cold chain logistics, bio-preservation, and advanced packaging solutions that have the potential to transform the industry.



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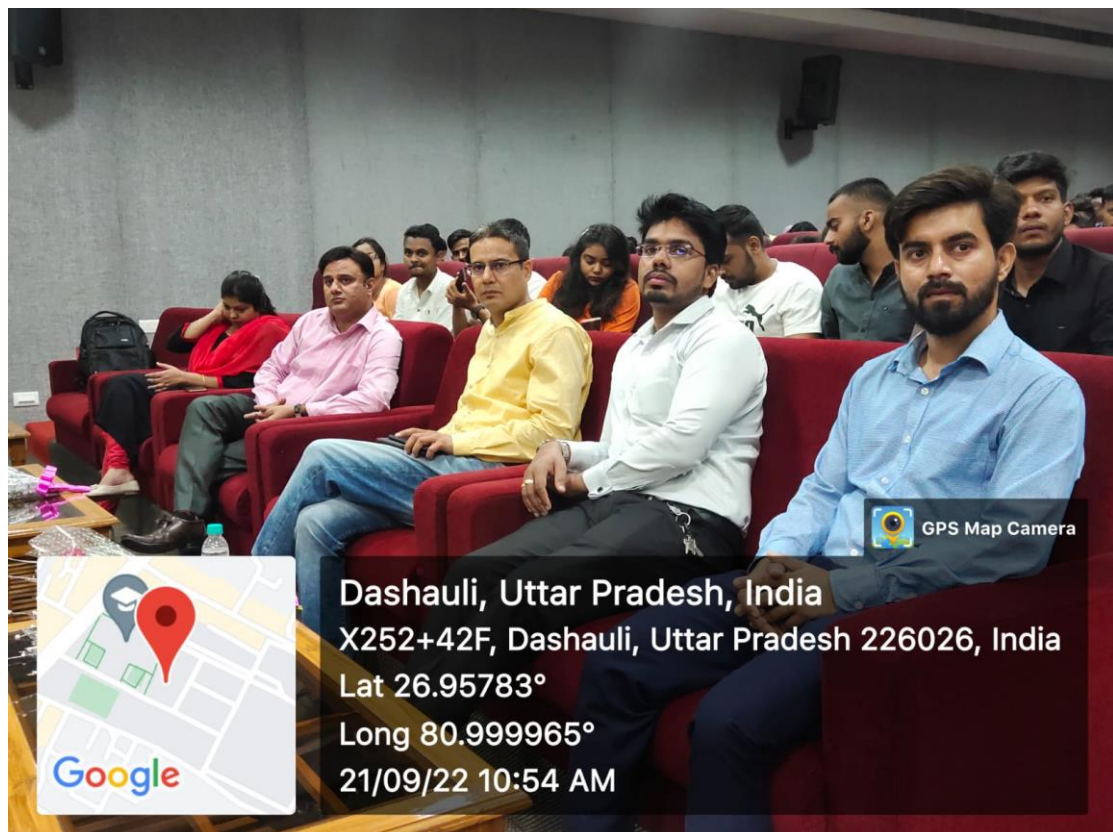
Mr. Shah didn't shy away from discussing the challenges faced by agri-entrepreneurs, such as the lack of infrastructure, limited access to finance, and regulatory hurdles. However, he encouraged students to view these challenges as opportunities for innovation and problem-solving. He shared insights on how to navigate these obstacles, including leveraging government schemes and policies designed to support agri-businesses, such as the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) initiatives.

An engaging Q&A session followed Mr. Shah's lecture, where students posed numerous questions ranging from specific technical queries about food processing technologies to broader questions about the entrepreneurial journey. Mr. Shah's responses were not only informative but also inspiring, as he shared his own experiences and encouraged students to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams with passion and perseverance. In conclusion, Mr. Pankaj Kumar Shah's lecture was a significant learning experience, shedding light on the vast potential within the food processing sector and the vital role of entrepreneurship in harnessing this potential. The session was instrumental in broadening the students' understanding of agri-entrepreneurship and inspiring them to explore this promising field.

The guest lecture concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Faria Fatima. The guest lecture was meticulously organized by the members of the RAWA committee, including Dr. Malik Mobeen, Mr. Nadeem Khan, Dr. Faria Fatima, Dr. Khalid Habib, Dr. Sunil Kumar, and Dr. Ayush Bhushan, under the guidance of Prof. Mohd. Haris Siddiqui, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology, and Dr. Saba Siddiqui, Head of the Department of Agriculture.



Glimpse





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