



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

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**Report  
on  
Guest Lecture on Fundamental of Agricultural Extension  
Organized by  
Department of Agriculture  
September 22, 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. Dr Barsati Lal, Principal Scientist, Extension and Training Unit, ICAR-IISR, Lucknow visit on September 22, 2022, for an insightful guest lecture on "Fundamental of Agricultural Extension". Dr. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, cordially welcomed the lecturer. Dr. Siddiqui urged everyone to participate in such lectures.

Dr. Lal began his lecture by providing an overview of agricultural extension, defining it as a critical service that extends research-based knowledge to farmers to improve their agricultural practices and livelihoods. He emphasized that agricultural extension is the backbone of rural development, facilitating the transfer of innovations from research institutions to the farming community.

Highlighting the historical context, Dr. Lal traced the evolution of agricultural extension in India, from its early beginnings during the colonial era to the establishment of the ICAR and state agricultural universities. He noted that the Green Revolution marked a significant milestone in the field, demonstrating the pivotal role of extension services in achieving food security and increasing agricultural productivity. He elaborated on the core principles of agricultural extension, including the concepts of participatory learning and community engagement. He stressed the importance of understanding the local context and involving farmers in the decision-making process. This approach ensures that the solutions provided are tailored to the specific needs and conditions of the farmers, thereby increasing the adoption rate of new technologies and practices.

A significant portion of the lecture was dedicated to the methods and tools used in agricultural extension. He discussed various extension methodologies, such as farm visits, demonstration plots, farmer field schools, and the use of mass media and ICT (Information and Communication Technology) tools. He provided practical examples of how these methods have been successfully implemented to bridge the gap between research and practice,



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enhancing farmers' knowledge and skills. He also addressed the challenges faced by the agricultural extension system in India. He identified issues such as inadequate infrastructure, limited funding, and the shortage of trained extension personnel. Furthermore, he highlighted the complexities arising from the diverse agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions across the country. Despite these challenges, Dr. Lal remained optimistic about the future of agricultural extension, advocating for reforms and innovations to strengthen the system.

In discussing the future trends, Dr. Lal pointed to the increasing importance of digital agriculture and the potential of mobile-based advisory services. He cited examples of successful digital initiatives that provide real-time information on weather, pest management, and market prices to farmers, thereby enhancing their decision-making capabilities. He also emphasized the need for continuous capacity building and training of extension workers to keep pace with the rapidly evolving agricultural landscape.

The lecture concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where students and faculty engaged Dr. Lal with questions ranging from the practical aspects of implementing extension programs to the role of women in agricultural extension. Dr. Lal's responses were insightful and grounded in his extensive field experience, providing valuable guidance and encouraging active participation from the audience. 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 RAWE 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.



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## Glimpse

