

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

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**Brief Report on Educational Visit of Students of B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture to  
ICAR-Central Potato research Institute (CPRI) Shimla**

Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural, Science and Technology (IIAST) always motivates and supports its students for educational tours and visits to Agricultural Universities, Research Institutions, Industries & various expos related to Agriculture. These visits provide students an opportunity to interact with the eminent scientists, researchers, academicians and domain leaders working in the field of Agriculture and its allied activities. In accordance with this an educational visit was organized by Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural, Science and Technology (IIAST) for the students of B.Sc (Hons.)Agriculture III Year from 10-14 July 2019 to ICAR-Central Potato research Institute (CPRI) Shimla. The aim of the visit was to enhance students' understanding of potato cultivation, research, and development techniques, as well as to expose them to the latest advancements in the field.

The students were cordially welcomed by the institute's staff members. They were briefed about the institute's history, objectives, and research areas. They were divided into smaller groups, each accompanied by an experienced guide who took them through the various sections of the institute. The students were exposed to the Germplasm Collection Unit, which houses a vast assortment of potato varieties from different regions of India and abroad. They were introduced to the importance of germplasm conservation and how these collections contribute to crop improvement programs. They also visited the Breeding and Genetics Section, where they witnessed the process of cross-pollination and trait selection. They learned about the techniques used to develop new potato varieties with desired characteristics, such as disease resistance, high yield, and quality traits. In the Tissue Culture Laboratory, the students observed the micropropagation techniques used for rapid multiplication of disease-free potato plantlets. They gained insight into the significance of tissue culture in producing disease-resistant and uniform planting material. They were given insight about the Seed Production and Certification Unit, where they learned about the various stages involved in producing certified potato seeds. They understood the importance of quality seeds in achieving high yields and disease control.

At the Potato Processing Unit, students witnessed the transformation of potatoes into various value-added products such as chips, flakes, and dehydrated potato powder. They were educated about the market potential of processed potato products and their contribution to the economy. The visit to the Central Potato Research Institute in Shimla proved to be an enlightening and enriching experience for the students. It provided them with a practical understanding of the various aspects related to potato research, cultivation, and processing. The students appreciated the hospitality and expertise of the institute's staff, who patiently gave them informations and solved their queries.

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**Glimpses of the visit**



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