

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

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## **Brief report on Kisan Pathshala Empowering Agriculture and Ensuring Health (कृषि को सशक्त बनाना और स्वास्थ्य सुनिश्चित करना) organised by Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST) on 07<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Bhakamau Village**

A Kisan Pathshala was organized by Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Bhakamau Village, Lucknow focusing on the theme "Empowering Agriculture and Ensuring Health." Kisan Pathshala is an extension programme that government of UP has initiated in 2017 with a view to encourage the use of modern farming techniques, to make farming more profitable, sustainable, and resilient. Unlike traditional extension services, Kisan Pathshala integrates various facets of Agricultural knowledge into a packaged format and delivers it through village-level training to farmers. Keeping this in view, the event aimed to integrate agricultural practices with health consciousness, emphasizing the interconnection between farming methods and human health.

The pathshala was observed under the guidance of Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology and Dr Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. The faculty coordinators Dr Malik Mobeen and Dr Sunil Kumar along with the supporting staff Mr Mohd Mued accompanied and students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture to the Bhakamau village where the Pathshala was organised.

The session commenced with an informative address on the importance of adopting sustainable agricultural practices to safeguard both environmental and human health. Dr Malik Mobeen shed light on the adverse effects of chemical-intensive farming on soil fertility, water quality, and public health, underscoring the need for transitioning towards organic and eco-friendly alternatives. Practical demonstrations formed an integral part of the event, wherein farmers were provided hands-on training in organic farming techniques and the cultivation of nutritious crops. He also emphasised on the cultivation of indigenous and traditional varieties of crops rich in essential nutrients, aiming to address malnutrition and promote dietary diversity among rural communities. Dr Sunil Kumar encouraged the farmers to diversify their crops and incorporate nutrient-rich foods into their diets, thereby fostering a culture of health-conscious farming. Interactive sessions facilitated the exchange of knowledge among participants, enabling them to share experiences, challenges, and best practices related to agricultural and health-related issues. The event also provided a platform for showcasing innovative initiatives and technologies aimed at enhancing both agricultural productivity and community health. By promoting sustainable farming practices and supporting nutritious food systems, the pathshala laid the basis for a healthier, more sustainable agricultural sector and empowered farmers to contribute towards improving the well-being of their communities in Bhakamau Village and beyond. Overall, the Kisan Pathshala served as a pivotal platform for knowledge exchange and empowerment. The feedback from farmers was noted. The Kisan Pathshala was a very successful endeavour with the effort of one and all.

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## Glimpses of the event

